THE

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 11.] JUNE 30, 1809. [Vol. 2.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE HYDROMETER.

MECHANICAL men are not generally in the habit of writing or communicating to the public the discoveries which arise from their experience, even though such information could be of no injury to themselves. Nevertheless, circumstances apparently small and trifling not unfrequently occur to observing artists, which, when made known might be of the greater use both to the philosopher and the man of business.

This is the only apology I shall make for laying before the public through the medium of your Magazine the following experimental observations concerning the Hydrometer, relative to its accuracy in showing the specific gravity of fluids; its use in showing the temperature in the same manner as the Thermometer; how it may be made to act as a Baroscope, and how it is convertible into a Barometer.

Whether these observations be useful or not, I do not pretend to say, but shall briefly mention them as they occurred, first premising, that in Hydrometers for finding the specific gravity of fluids or solids (where accuracy is required) the body or ball B, (fig. 1) must be large and the stem S, small, also it must be weighted or balanced at b, so as to cause the stem S, to stand upright when put in a fluid contained in a convenient shaped vessel. These are things generally known.

In the course of business I made an Hydrometer, of which the ball B, was two inches diameter, and the stem S, .02 of an inch diameter, and 12 inches long. By this instrument I found the specific gravity of water sensibly changed when only *one ounce* of alkaline salt was mixed with 400 *gallons* of water, $\frac{1}{77888}$ in comparative weights to each other.

I next examined what effect different temperatures had upon this instrument. At the time I was trying the experiment, the water I used showed 50° of heat according to Farenheit's scale, and the Hydrometer stood in the water at 50° (fig. 1) I gradually increased the heat of the water to 75° of the same scale, during which time the Hydrometer sunk 12 inches, as marked 75° in the same figure.* This experiment proves that the instrument is capable of showing the *different temperatures*, in the same manner as the Thermometer, also teaches us what care is necessary in finding and observing the temperature of a fluid before its specific gravity can be correctly known.

When I reflected on the discovery I had now made, that this instrument rendered the degrees of heat and cold very conspicuous by the specific gravity of the water being varied according to the temperature,‡ the following idea occurred to my mind; if a large ball or glass bubble, hermetically sealed, were placed on the top of the stem S at a, and adjusted by balance, so that the surface of the water might intersect the stem S, at C; after such adjustment, should the air become specifically heavier, the bubble would be moved upwards, and find its balance by moving more of the stem S, out of the water into the air; if the air became lighter the reverse would be the effect.

* The Hydrometer here referred to was made of Glass. Brass Hydrometers expand more and do not show the variations by heat and cold so sensibly.

‡ It moved nearly half an inch for each degree of heat the water received.

In trying the experiment the result exactly agreed with the idea beforementioned, so that during the time the temperature remained the same, the instrument possessed all the properties of the Baroscope; but in different temperatures and fluids it contains the united properties of the *Hydrometer, Thermometer,* and *Barometer.*

FIG. 2.

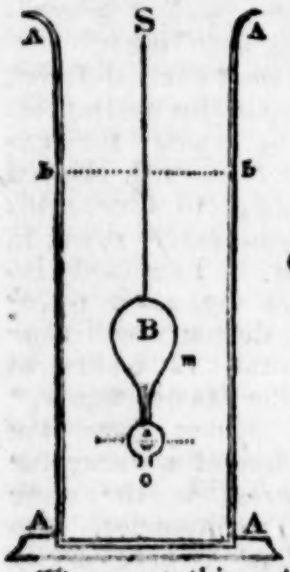
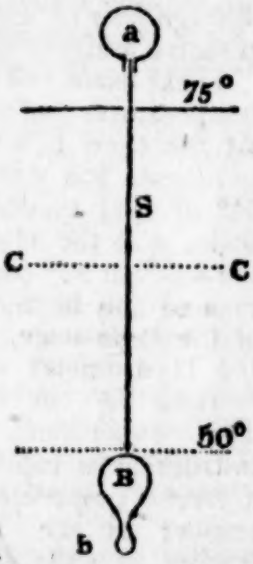


FIG. 1.



The next thing that occurred to me was to discover how this instrument could be employed as a Barometer only. This I effected by a small alteration, as follows.

AAAA (fig. 2) is a large glass vessel filled with water to b b: B, the ball, S, the stem as in the former experiments, only that the instrument is now weighted or balanced by the mercury m, in the ball B, which is hermetically sealed. Under the large ball B, another small ball a w, is fastened, having an opening, o, in its lower extremity. This float S, B, o, being adjusted by weights &c. to stand in the water so that the surface of the fluid may intersect the middle of the stem S, when the Barometer stands at changeable. The small ball a w, is partly filled with air, and partly with water, as shown by the dotted line. In this state of adjustment, should the air become heavier the pressure will be more upon the surface of the water at b b, which will occasion more water to pass through the hole o, into the small ball a w, the float will become heavier and consequently sink until it comes to a balance, by causing more of the stem S, to be immerged in the water. The contrary will be the effect when the air becomes lighter.

It only remains to find by experiment whether the different proportions of the instrument be correct; this can be done in the following manner. Remove the whole instrument, as above described, into a warm place; should the float sink when heated, the remedy is to adjust it with more air in the small ball a w, but should it rise by being heated, it must be adjusted with more water in the small ball: if it neither rise nor sink when heated, then and then only it is right, as in such case the absorption and contraction of the air in the small ball by cooling counterbalances the water as it becomes specifically heavier and *vice versa.*

But should the stem be too small it cannot stand at any determined height, or in other words, will not be a balance to the air at any height of the stem, because more water will go into the small ball a w, by its being depressed by the water's increasing depth or pressure, than space taken up by the stem S, in going through the same space, and should it be too large, the space it will move through, from the variations of the atmosphere will be but small; but when all its parts are duly proportioned and adjusted, it shows the *minute Barometrical changes* of the atmosphere more visibly than any instrument I have yet seen.

JOB RIDER.

Belfast May 15, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FOR AND AGAINST THE USE OF TOBACCO.

A YOUNG man was extremely fond of smoking, but being persuaded by some of his female acquaintance, he consented to drop it for three months: a few weeks after he laid it aside, he wrote the following lamentation—The answer is from the pen of his female acquaintance.

THE FAREWELL.

Hail divine tobacco! In thee how

often do we find refuge from our cares? Thou potent restorer of the decayed energies of man!—in thee old age renews the pleasures of youth, for thy vivifying fumes ascend to the pericranium—nourishing and renewing the intellect as the dew of Heaven fertilizes the earth! Thou parent of blank verse! Thou last best gift of Heaven to way-worn man! without thee the wild Indian could not enjoy his being; without thee he would be a coward in war; he would cry out where is my courage? where is my strength? And the wise man would say, thou canst not be courageous or strong without tobacco, and he would go away disappointed to his tent. Even the warriors of Europe owe much of their prowess to thy invigorating influence. To thee and thy compatriot (the potatoe) we owe all that ennobles us as men, "health, strength, courage, and beauty." Go and convince the fair sex of the fatuity of their conduct, in not using it themselves, and prohibiting it to others—Thou soul of courage, and thou nerve of man, farewell for three long months—farewell.

AN IRISHMAN.

THE REPLY.

Woe unto thee, thou ill favoured weed! by thee, how often is our precious time wasted—thou potent enemy to the vigour of youth! By thee old age is reminded of its weakness, for thy stupifying fumes damp or extinguish the last sparks of youthful vigour, poisoning our faculties as the foggy winds prevent the fertility of the earth! Thou mortal enemy to true poetry, and parent of stupidity; thou last worst gift of foreigners to enervate our countrymen! Without thee the wild Indian would enjoy the effects of his industry; without thee he would be valiant in war; he would cry out, behold my courage! and the wise man would answer him saying, thou canst be courageous and strong, since thou hast ceased smoking, and he would go away well pleased to his tent. Even the warriors of Europe begin to be cowardly by means of thy enervating influence.

To thee and thy associate, whiskey, we owe all that degrades us as men, sickness, cowardice, weakness, laziness and pallid countenance. Begone from the society of females, where thou sometimes intrudest—Thou death of Hila* begone for ever, thou miscreant, begone!

FLORA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FISRT IMPRESSIONS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ON the sixteenth of May, a Portugueze vessel, from Pernambucca to Liverpool, delayed by contrary winds, cast anchor about three miles from shore, in a neighbouring bay: It was the first place she had stopped at since her departure from South America, and she was immediately visited by several fishermen and peasants, whom curiosity attracted to see the crew. These men returned with such a singular account of the strange appearance, the language and dress of these foreigners, that I also determined to visit them, and accordingly, at twelve o'clock the next day, I proceeded to the vessel in a four-oared boat, accompanied by five young gentlemen. The day was remarkably fine, and the countenances of my youthful company, during our little voyage, were lit up with all the gaiety and animation that brilliant sunshine and grand scenery could confer on innocence and health. As we approached the vessel, a groupe of sailors were leaning over the side, gazing at us with the most earnest curiosity; and their black plaitted hair, their large dark eyes, their deep swarthy hue, with the long knives stuck in their girdles, all contributed to give them such an assassin-like aspect, that my terror for a moment subdued every other feeling, and shame alone prevented me from ordering the boat to row back. I saw my companions, one by one, climb up the vessel's side, and at length, not without considerable apprehension, I ventured on deck, where we were instantly surrounded by the sailors, who with the kindest looks and gestures, endeavoured to evince their pleasure at our visit; my uneasiness vanished; I found that I had mistaken national costume for actual villany, and mere colour for dark expression. They had an Irishman on

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* The Goddess of Vivacity.

board, who was returning from Rio Janeiro, and who acted as their pilot and interpreter; by whose means we conversed with the captain. What particularly attracted their attention was, the brother of one of my companions, a fine boy, about seven years old; they took off his cap, they felt his flaxen hair, and loaded him with the most endearing caresses. The first and second mates were broken emigrants from Portugal, and both extremely handsome; the elder, who seemed about twenty four, after several expressions of kindness, took out a guitar of a large form, and louder tone than any I had before seen or heard, and seating himself on deck, began to play a Brazilian air, and never shall I forget the impression it made on me; the light and fantastic measure, so different from our musical combinations, the tones of the instrument so new, so pleasing to my ear, the emotions of the performer's expressive features, as his fingers swept through every variation of the tune, filled me with sensations that shall remain in my mind a lasting treasure for reflection.

The performer expressed a wish to see my young companions dance, who immediately assenting, began a Scottish reel of four, and kept admirable time to a beautiful fandango tune. The crew collected in a circle around them; delight and satisfaction were pictured in every sun-burnt face. "*Star bon! star bon! benito Irelandese!*" reiterated from every voice. The dance concluded, we got into our boat; the whole crew saluted us with three cheers; we returned it, *con amore*, and as long as memory shall exert her faculty in my mind, I shall think with delight on the Brazilian fandango, and the foreign guitar. L.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

PERMIT me, sir, to take up a few pages of your valuable Magazine in drawing the attention of some of your readers to a subject not generally understood, especially by those whose business and employment it is.

"A large and elegant bridge, forming a way over a broad and rapid river, is justly esteemed one of the noblest pieces of mechanism that man is capable of performing, and any attempts to advance the theory or practice, highly deserving the encouragement of the public."

As my profession is not that of an architect, very probably I should have been silent, had it not been from hearing and seeing every day, absurd things advanced on the subject.——I will not say a word of that *rickety* bridge near this town, on the Dublin road, which, if I am rightly informed, cost the public upwards of six hundred pounds sterling!!!—nor do I wish to wound the feelings of its architect, but rather to give him a friendly hint lest he fall into similar errors in his present construction.

When a bridge is deemed necessary to be built over a river, the first consideration is the plan of it, or what particular situation will contain a maximum of the advantages over the disadvantages.

The breadth of the river, the navigation upon it, and the velocity and depth of the stream, form considerations of great moment. In most cases, a wider part of the river ought rather to be chosen than a narrow one, especially if it is subject to great tides or floods; for the encreased velocity of the stream in the narrow part being again augmented by the further contraction of the breadth, will both incommode the navigation through the arches, undermine the piers, and endanger the whole bridge. With respect to the form of a bridge, strength, utility, and beauty, ought to be regarded and united, the chief of which lies in the arches.

In fixing on the number of arches, let an odd number always be taken, and few and large ones rather than many and smaller: for thus we shall have not only fewer foundations and piers to make, but fewer arches and centres, which will produce great savings in the expense.

The elliptical arch is in general the best form for most bridges, as it can be made of any height to the same span, or of any span to the same height, while at the same time its haunches are sufficiently strong and elevated above the water, even when it is flat at top—a property which the

other curves are not in the same degree possessed of. The joints of fracture, or the parts most likely to give way, are at the haunches, and the property in this curve is such, that after an arch is built, and the centering struck, it settles more about the haunches than at any of the other parts.

Elliptical arches also look bolder, are really stronger, and require less materials and labour than any others. The cycloidal arch is next in quality to the elliptical, and lastly, the circle.

The elliptic arch of equilibration, is that which is in equilibrium in all its parts, having no tendency to give way in one place more than another, and is therefore recommended as the most durable, commodious, and beautiful of all arches. Every particular figure of the extrados above an arch, requires a particular curve for the under side of the arch itself, to form an arch of equilibration, so that the incumbent pressure on every part may be proportional to the strength or resistance there. When the arch is equally thick throughout (a case that can hardly ever happen) there the catenarian curve is the arch of equilibration, but in no other case whatever; and therefore it is a great mistake to suppose that this curve is the best figure for arches in all cases, when in reality it is the worst.

The catenarian curve, is that form which a chain or rope takes, by hanging freely from two horizontal points of suspension.

As the choice of the arch is of so great moment, let no person either through ignorance or indolence prefer a worse than what is here recommended, because it may seem to him easier to construct; for he would ill deserve the name or employment of an architect, who is not capable of readering the exact construction of any curve easy and familiar to himself; but if by chance a *bridge-builder* should be employed, who is incapable of doing that, he ought at least to have so much honesty as to procure some person to go through the calculations which he cannot make for himself.

Any of your readers who wish for further information on this subject, are referred to Dr. Hutton's Principles of Bridges, where they will find the matter fully explained. It is to this work I am principally indebted for the present remarks.—But, Mr. Editor, if I can spare time, and that no person better qualified takes up the subject, I will send you easy and correct rules deduced from first principles, adapted chiefly for those who have not studied the subject in a mathematical point of view.

M'C.

Belfast, 22d May, 1809.

For the Belfast Magazine.

A DIALOGUE.

AN OLD MAN IS QUIETLY WALKING ALONG, A TRAVELLER COMES AND ACCOSTS HIM.

Trav. Good morning.

Old M. Good morning to you kindly.

Tra. Can you tell me the way to Wexford?

Old M. That I can, for I know the place too well; I am going within a mile of the town, and we can travel together. You seem to be a stranger in the country.

Tra. So I am, although I was born here; but I went to sea when I was a a boy, and never saw my native country since.

Old M. Oh! then, it is woefully changed since that time. The rebellion made sad havock.

Tra. The rebellion! I was in England at the time. Did you lose any thing by it?

Old M. Yes *(sighing)* I lost every thing, I may say; it happened this time eleven years; I remember it well, for my poor boy joined them; Oh! it was a sorrowful day to me!

Tra. Was he compelled to join them?

Old M. Yes, his high spirit compelled him. He could not bear to be whipped like a dog, all innocent as he was.

Tra. Whipped!—for what reason? I thought none but the guilty were whipped.

Old M. No, he was as innocent as a child, and ever loyal to his king; but he was poor and suspected, and that was enough for them. When they came to take my poor, poor boy out, he was teaching his little sister to write, for that was his business when he came home from his work; and my wife

and I were sitting smoking, thinking how happy we were to have such a good son. Oh! I thought my poor wife's heart would break when she saw him going. She fell on her knees, and begged them not to take the prop of her old age from her, for she thought he would never recover it. He had a fever long after, which my wife caught in attending him; for, poor woman! she never lay down the whole time, but still watching him. He recovered, but she never did; she is in a better place, so I ought not to fret. *(wiping his eyes.)*

Tra. And where is your son!

Old M. Oh! sir, he is with his poor mother, in heaven; for, as I told you before, sir, he joined the rebels: he thought he was serving his country, but when he saw the cruelty of his own party, he repented, and was coming to give up his arms, when a party of soldiers met him, and took him up; and when he would not inform, they shot him. Poor fellow, he thought it a mean and cowardly thing to be an informer. Well then, they came to my little cabin, and set it on fire. My little girl was burned to death, and old as I am, they would have killed me, only I happened to be out, for nothing was too bad for them to do. So, you see, sir, I had my sufferings; and many more, like me, were left without a child to close their eyes. So now, sir, I bid you good morning—— that's your road.

SYLVIA.

For the Belfast Magazine.

I PERCEIVE that your pages are open to free discussion on literary subjects, and that the *shadow of a mighty name* affords no protection to the possessor of it, whether living or dead, from the censure of just criticism.

The paradoxes of Rousseau are probably known to your readers, by which he advocates the savage life in preference to the advantages of civilization. Some of your readers, perhaps, may not be acquainted with the secret history of his essay on the inequality of man, which he wrote in answer to the question proposed by the academy of Dijon. "What is the origin of the inequality among men? and, if it be authorized by the law of nature?" He himself describes his sensations, on resolving to write in favour of the savage state, as rising to extacy; and that he was so penetrated with his subject, as to shed many tears. This is all very fine, but he appears only to have been an actor; for, in the memoirs of Marmontel, written by himself, we are assured, on the authority of Diderot, that Rousseau had at first designed to write in favour of civilization, and was resolved to exercise all his powers in its cause. He mentioned his design to Diderot, who observed, that other candidates would, doubtless, display the benefits derived from social improvements; and that it was a path in which he would not be distinguished from the dunces. "C'est un pont aux anes," (a bridge that every animal may pass) was the expression of Diderot. Rousseau changed his plan, and gratified his vanity and love of paradox, by writing in favour of the savage state. Rather than take the vulgar road, he whimsically adduces the advantages of nakedness, inclement seasons, ignorance the most profound, privations of all the comforts of social intercourse, and the society of animals, scarcely inferior to his favourite savage.

A READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

I HAVE been your constant reader since the first publication of the Belfast Magazine. With some of your essays I have been highly pleased and instructed. I will trust to your candour to allow me to say, I have also seen some papers in the Magazine, which I do not admire; and which did not even please the class of readers for whom the tales were intended. Some of the tales want consistency of character, and I hope Maria will allow me to mention, a few objections to Rosa. Mrs. Woodley speaking of *Shayboy, knowed, sartaint, axing,* and *larning* is not characteristic of English manners; the English have a different phraseology: such words are more used by the poorer classes of the Irish whose poverty too frequently prevents them from getting instruction.

Passing over some other things which I do not admire, I must say, I agree with Maria in the conclusion of the tale, when she speaks of scandal. I have sat present many times when I have been astonished at the malignant pleasure, some persons took in aspersing the characters of their neighbours, either by insinuations or more positive assertions. A diffidence of my own abilities has often prevented me from expressing the indignation I have felt at such conversation. While I thus condemn scandal, I must admit that a dread of public censure may have its use in making us careful to have our conduct and behaviour always regulated by the strictest propriety. If we are conscious that it is such as is proper we may be assured that even if scandal point her poisoned arrow at us, the tale will not be generally believed, and thus, to a certain degree we may live above the reach of censorious tongues, whose malice is best defeated by innocence, and the necessary caution to shun the appearance as well as the reality of error, in the manner of conducting ourselves. Female honour is of a peculiarly delicate nature; indiscretion may lead us to become really vicious, it often leads us to have the appearance of being so without the actual guilt If we are sometimes falsely censured, the consciousness of our own integrity and uprightness of conduct will support us under the insinuations and aspersions of the malevolent and censorious.

S.Y.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SOME years ago when travelling in England, I twice passed through the Potteries of Staffordshire; I shall give the result of my observations.—I first passed them in the night; the flames issuing from the furnaces had a curious effect, when viewed for the first time; I was also struck with an idea of the great wealth of England, and wondered less at her capabilities to carry on her destructive wars, when I beheld such vast capital invested in one single article of manufacture, the earthen ware, which in comparison of some others, would rather appear of minor importance.

These potteries lie in the north west part of Staffordshire, and form a nearly connected extension of villages for several miles, under different names, as Burslem, Hanley-Green, Etruria, &c.

From these extensive manufactories are supplied not only the common articles of earthen ware now in so general use amongst all ranks but also the finer kinds both for use and ornament, which from the inventive genius of the celebrated Wedgewood and others, have attained to such hitherto unrivalled perfection.

My second visit through this extremely populous quarter, was on a summer's evening: I was surprized to find such crowds of people in a state of idleness, men, women, and boys: many of whom, even boys not exceeding 15 or 16, in a state of gross intoxication. I had previously formed an opinion that in England, the people were comparatively more sober than in Ireland: I inquired if it was fair time, or any particular festival; but was answered in the negative: I found it was only St. Monday, and that the workmen finding they could subsist on the high wages which they received for working during part of the week, squandered their earnings in this pernicious manner. I had formerly been a strong advocate for high wages to the working classes of the community, in hopes they might tend to increase their comforts and elevate their views to some higher attainment of intellectual knowledge. But I was somewhat confounded in my former theories, and saw cause to consider that high wages often produce a contrary effect, unless those who receive them have been previously trained to make a good use of them, and to employ their leisure for the purposes of real improvement. It was necessary however to guard myself from misanthropic views, and having found my former theory in part untenable, from falling into the opposite extreme, of considering the working classes merely as beasts of burden, to produce profit to their employers, the rich capitalists. I lamented that the present system of education and public instruction, was not better calculated for fitting the various ranks of society to discharge their respective

duties with propriety, and turning the current of public opinion and example in favour of virtue: as I am thoroughly persuaded that example, and the direction of public manners hence derived, are of far greater consequence than direct instruction.

On making inquiry I found, that owing to a competition among the employers, wages had risen greatly, and that a bad use was made of their superfluous earnings. It is a pity that they took this wrong direction. The instance mentioned in a late commercial report, of the work people employed at the cotton factory at Rothsay in the Isle of Bute, purchasing a library, and employing their leisure hours in reading, forms a pleasing contrast to the misapplication of time and money by the inhabitants of the Potteries. K.

VIRTUE, REASON AND LOVE, AN ALLEGORY.

REASON and Love were the daughters of Virtue; they were both amiable, but Love was more open and possessed less genius than her sister; she was always guided by her and never formed an attachment without her approbation. Her mother's old enemy, the Cyprian queen, had a son whose name also was Love, who often disguised himself under a feigned appearance, but to distinguish him from the daughter of Virtue, he was called Cupid. He inspired mortals with a flame, which not being approved by Reason, soon expired. The two sisters were one day walking, and entering a wood they beheld a sleeping infant: by its side sat Humanity weeping. "Alas," said she, "this beauteous babe was left here no doubt by some unnatural parent, do not let it perish." Love snatched the babe in her arms, saying—"henceforth this shall be my charge." The child grew under the care of Love and imbibed some of her virtues, but she could not withstand the attacks of Cupid who continually presented himself in the shape of her benefactress. In vain Reason expostulated, and Love suffered many painful moments to see her thus led astray. Virtue came one day to see her daughters, who begged she would use her influence to recall their protegée to her duty. She called to her and spoke as follows. "My dear child, I am displeased with your ingratitude, as well as surprised at your ignorance: my daughters found you a desolate child, they brought you from misery and took care of you, and yet you have not learned to distinguish between them and their worst enemy; Follow the advice of Reason, and you will be safe from his attacks, if you do not, you will feel the ill effects of your conduct; on the contrary if you overcome your weakness, you will have for your reward this crown of flowers; you will resemble in humility the violet which adorns it; and the primrose in modesty; the sweetness of your heart will spread the perfume of the jessamine and lily of the valley. Be spotless like them. The wreath of never fading roses is thornless. I will be glad to bestow it upon you. Know, dear child! when possessed of this crown you will have everlasting happiness and glory. Go endeavour to win it. I wish you success. "With that she embraced her. The heart of the young maid was touched with the words of Virtue, and she turned her thoughts to gain the crown endowed with such precious gifts. FLORELLA.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME REMARKS ON STERNE.

SIR,

I THINK that I am a friend to free discussion on all subjects, when conducted with candour and decency. Whether it were the want of these qualities in the communication by "A Reader," in your magazine of December last, in which he drags forth some very improbable anecdotes of Sterne, that made it excite in me so strong a feeling of disapprobation, I cannot positively assert. It is however certain that the paper I have just mentioned, signed "A Reader," his defence of it in February, and lately your "Lover of Simplicity of Character" in the magazine of last month, who has made common cause against poor Laurence—have each of them produced sensations in the per-

usal that meer difference of opinion could not. But the candour they seem to have violated with Sterne must not be withheld from his accusers. Suppose they are allowed the plea which they appear anxious to assume, that of advocating the cause of morality, does this require a recurrence to mean disgusting personalities, and the more ample propagation of avowed scandal—avowed even in the place where it was produced? Surely no: the advocate of a good cause disdains the alliance of baseness, he has nobler weapons to wield; if he cannot conquer with these he does not injure it by his management, nor endeavour to enlist the worst passions of mankind in his favour by nurturing their natural malignancy against superiority of character. But Sir, if we recur to the pretended facts stated in the anecdotes, they confute themselves, and can only injure Sterne's character with the indolent, or those already prejudiced and who are unwilling to have their prejudices removed. The story of his mother is totally undeserving of notice: your correspondent "A. B." in the Number for January, has well observed on its improbability, and in fact his enemies of whom no man had more, more prejudiced or more inveterate—even his enemies were ashamed of it long before his death, and it seems now brought forward with the uncandid intention of attaching obloquy more surely to his memory from the supposed impossibility of refutation.

The next *anecdote* is about his Daughter, related by a Mr. H—— as told him by *Dr. Marriot!* There are few people in Belfast of thirty years standing who would look much farther than that name for solving this difficulty. Many of them have smarted under the lash of Dr. M——'s termagant muse, and did we not commonly look with unequal eyes on our own case and that of our neighbour, a very exaggerated statement would be immediately perceived, and the little that might really remain highly touched with the Doctor's usual colouring. Is it probable that Dr. Marriot and his family would allow a young lady in the state Miss Sterne is described, and for the length of time which the delays suppose to remain lying on the floor? If so, the inhumanity imputed to Tristram remains with Miss Marriot and her Father.

The ridicule attempted to be introduced into the latter part of this story, strongly excited my indignation. It shows how easily little things, and innocent things, can be perverted, in order to load with contempt the object of our aversion.

The only charge brought "in a tangible shape" against the writings of Sterne by the "Reader" and "Lover of Simplicity" is obscenity, a heavy charge if well founded. All we have on this head however, is, that one of them tried to read the two first chapters of Tristram Shandy and could not get through them. Poor Gentleman! yet many worthy people with as much *real* delicacy as he *affects* to possess, have accomplished reading the two first and all the other chapters of this terrible book. Not that I mean to say that it is an unexceptionable production, or that there are not many passages in his books, or rather in this one and his Sentimental Journey, which would have been better omitted. His wit often led him to use expressions that excite the imagination of his readers in a way not favourable to the government of the passions. This, in a professed moralist would not be tolerated, but in a writer whose first aim was amusement, it is more pardonable, especially when he leads through flowery paths to the most excellent employment of a human being, the exercise of beneficence, charity and mercy.

The goodness of the end is the first, the means to attain it the second consideration. Sterne designed to exhibit the frivolity, the injustice, the ignorance, and the prejudices of mankind in such a form as they could not fail to condemn; thinking when this point was gained they must feel some reluctance at continuing the practice. He did not stop here, he studiously brought forwards the best principles of our nature, placed them in a new and beautiful light, decorated them with all the charms of eloquence and the easy playfulness of

wit. In doing this he might in the consciousness of innocence use a latitude of allusion not altogether acceptable to colder or more chastened imaginations; and this I believe he frequently did without apprehending the consequences that might ensue from it in hearts not so pure as his own. This was imprudence, not vice; and this same imprudence was an original defect in his temperament, the effects of which, to his cost, he felt all his days: "For had mitres rained down from heaven as thick as hail, his head was so disfigured with the ugly blows which his adversaries had given him in the dark, not one of them could fit it." Alas, poor Yorick! thine adversaries need not now sculk into corners when they aim their blows at thee; they are secure from chastisement: the ass may now trample on the fallen lion.

The authority of Samuel Richardson, a good man I believe, and a writer of considerable celebrity, is introduced as a *coupe de main*, as a finishing blow, to overwhelm this poor victim of prejudice, and his advocates, with dismay and confusion. Our author says somewhere, that, "let a man be but true to himself, and one man is as good as another all the world over:" this I felt to be true on first reading the passage, I suppose thirty years ago, and I never had reason to entertain a doubt of it since. I say then Sir, that I feel no respect for authority, but the authority of superior virtue. Where morality, religion, or government are the subjects, as I must stand or fall by my own opinion, I yield not my judgment to Pope or Prince, or any human authority however great, respectable, or learned. Truth is simple, and the way to it short, and the untutored mind that loves it sincerely need never fear embracing a counterfeit in its stead. The meanest and most unlearned appreciate the value of right conduct, and have as quick a perception of justice, as those in a more dignified rank and having all the advantages of education. They can feel with equal certainty what effect any book they read produces upon their temper and disposition, if it makes them laugh or cry, love or hate virtue or vice more than before, whether they feel a greater desire to do good and a greater reluctance to commit bad actions than formerly. Surely in this case there is no need to consult Samuel Richardson, nor appeal to the sickly delicacy of the fastidious young lady his daughter's correspondent. The readers of Sterne can appeal to a surer guide, and will therefore take the liberty of judging for themselves, and for the cause of morality and decency as involved in his and their conduct. A critic oversteps his duty when he condescends to scrutinize the person and private conduct of an author, more especially if he draws his information from doubtful and impure sources. When he notices the tendency of a work, observes upon the composition, style, and manner of execution, he has warned the public: and according to the report, and the confidence they put in the ability and integrity of the reporter, will they be inclined to encourage or reprobate the production, but ultimately individuals must judge for themselves. Whether your two correspondents have observed the rules of justice and christian candour in the remarks they have thought proper to make on an author long admired, and long since incapable of speaking for himself, I leave to the private judgment of their own hearts, the public will not fail to decide that part of the cause which comes within its sphere. I must observe however, that were authority to decide, Sterne's advocates would be found more numerous than those who deny him, and equally respectable for talent and integrity.

One of these gentlemen, I forget which now, seems to have a great veneration for *English* ladies, and with an un-Irish gallantry witholds homage from his country women. I certainly yield not to him in respect and attachment to the sex, and I can hail with equal honour those who have stood forth the champions of reason and virtue; yet I avow a predilection for my country-women who I know are equal—nay more than equal in every perfection, in every estimable natural and acquired accomplishment to those of any country upon earth. I have not read any of

the two productions of Miss Owenson he mentions, which I intend doing as soon as I have leisure, but I have her other works, and have in general thought highly of them, and must request permission to consider it as great an honour to have that fair writer my country woman, as if her name was enrolled in the pompous list above alluded to. Her latter writings must indeed have fallen extremely short of her former, if they do not add to her fame, with them make her an ornament to her sex and country, and merit for her the honourable appellation of "a truly patriotic Irish-woman."

I have now, Sir, given you some trouble, which you'll be pleased to put to the account of your "Lover of Simplicity of character," for although I felt a kind of horror at the "anecdotes" and the rejoinder, yet but for his pertinacity I should never have been able to conquer my natural reluctance to appear in your pages.—I will therefore take my leave of you and your readers without any apology, and intend henceforth to leave Sterne to his own merits and the candid construction of his readers; perfectly agreeing with what was happily expressed, I think by himself, that, his books may be contemplated with the same innocence and purity of thought as a beautiful infant sprawling naked on the floor. T.

Belfast, May 18th, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SKETCH OF A RAMBLE TO ANTRIM, TAKEN JULY 10TH, 1 08.

I LEFT Carrickfergus just as the sun began to make his appearance in the Eastern horizon, and took the road leading to Antrim, by the way of Ballyclare. The morning was one of the finest I had ever seen; not a leaf shook with the wind; even the morning zephyr slumbered, and nought disturbed the silence, save the bay of the watch-dogs, in the print-fields by which I passed. During the night there had been a copious fall of dew, which being now struck by the oblique rays of the rising sun, glittered on each leaf like immmerable pearls; my soul felt the harmony of the scene; for, to use the words of the poet:

. . . . . "all things smiled
"With fragrance, and with joy my heart
o'erflow'd."

I wanted, however, the mattin song of the birds to enliven this charming scene, for nought was heard of their late carrols, but here and there a chirping of the mother and her young among the hedges.

"The groves, the fields, the meadows,
" now no more
"With melody resound; 'tis silence all,
"As if the lovely songsters, overwhelm'd
"By bounteous nature's plenty, lay in-
" tranced
"In drowsy lethargy."

I soon ascended the hill called Bryantang, and looking back, had a fine view of the town and castle, the Copeland isles, the opposite shore of Down, the entrance of the bay, and several vessels becalmed in the offing. I stood a few minutes contemplating the prospect before me, when the notes of a thrush in the adjacent glen roused my attention, and seemed to hail the rays of the rising sun with the utmost raptures. I listened a little to its charming melody, then quickly pursued my journey, and leaving the main road, ascended the hill called Slieve-true, on the top of which is a large cairn of stones, supposed to be an ancient funeral pile of the dead. I ascended the cairn to enjoy the charming prospect which it affords; it is truly grand, especially the view of the valley extending from Loughneagh to Larne, a space of about sixteen miles in length, and, at a mean, about seven in breadth; the country had a very pleasant appearance, being generally in a high state of cultivation, interspersed with numerous villages, villas and bleach greens; the sight recalled to my memory these lines of the poet,

"O vale of bliss! O softly-swelling hills,
"On which the power of cultivation lies,
"And joys to see the wonders of his toil."

A part of the town of Belfast is seen from hence; also the mountains of Mourne, and some high hills in the counties of Tyrone and Derry; the morning being pretty clear, I saw likewise some of the mountains of Scotland, and the Isle of Man. About twelve years ago, James Craig, esq. M. P. proprietor of the soil, built an elegant school-house here, but from its stormy situation in winter, and the

danger the children were exposed to in summer from cattle, it was deserted, and is in a very ruinous state at present; an antiquarian of the next century will probably suppose it to have been an ancient fortress. I now descended from the cairn, and leaving the hill, shaped my course for the house of an acquaintance who lived adjacent: on lifting the latch I entered, but he was not up; he quickly arose, and eagerly inquired the cause of my early visit, and having told him, he proposed to accompany me. I now began to rally him for not having his door fastened inside; but he said, that he was in no danger from robbers, and repeated these lines:

" He that has just enough can soundly
" sleep,
" The o'ercome only fashes fowk to keep."

He now kindled some heath, for the purpose of getting ready breakfast, and I sat down in a corner to look at a number of books, which were promiscuously mixed with the implements of his trade; they consisted of several odd volumes of plays, novels, and political tracts, as Billy Bluff, &c. I inquired if this was his whole library, of which I had heard him say so much; he answered in the negative, and opening a book case, bade me look there: it was really crammed with books chiefly select, as Hume's History of England, Gibbon's Decline of the Roman Empire, Gordon's History of Ireland, Heron's Scotland, several modern tours, and a large collection of magazines. The novels and poetical works I found equally elegant, and very numerous. By the time I had turned over these books, breakfast was ready, and we both made a hearty meal, and departed. The soil here is poor, and as there is nothing striking in its scenery, I hope the reader will not be displeased with a sketch of the person and character of my fellow-traveller, who, I conclude, he thinks is somewhat eccentrick. In person he is of the middle size; the outlines of his features, according to Lavater, rather unmeaning, and displaying little trace of that knowledge he is really possessed of; his temper is of the most even class, not easily raised nor depressed; in religion and politics his opinions are very liberal; but it is said, he has "studied himself into infidelity;" yet from his inoffensive demeanor, he is ranked among the best of unbelievers; his powers of description are very faint, yet there are few persons better acquainted with the natural curiosities of this and the neighbouring islands. But to return to my narrative: after travelling about two or three miles across a country not very remarkable for the neatness of its cultivation, we came in sight of Ballyclare; at the sight of this small town,

" Remembrance wak'd, with all her busy
" train."

It was my native place, and upwards of eleven years had elapsed since slander had driven me hence. I could not pass the little bridge, as you enter the town from Belfast, without halting. I leaned against the range wall—the sight gave my mind a melancholy cast—to me each object was interesting—every look reminded me of some juvenile amusement—at my feet was the place where I had whipped the top—beneath was the little pool where I used to snare the trout and eel—close by was the hawthorn hedge, where often I had made my childish plays—and a few perches distant was my native cot; the scene affected me, and was productive of the following lines:

Hail! little stream, still to me dear,
Here memory presents to view
Those happy scenes, which on thy banks
In youthful innocence I knew.

On yonder green, when school let loose,
The village youth to sport and play,
The noisy groups oft, oft, I join'd
In rural sports, till close of day.

Beneath yon hedge I oft have sat,
With others, making noisy glee;
The trees, the stones, that's hereabout,
As old acquaintance here I see.

I see the cot where first I drew
The vital air in of this clay;
And may * * * *
Whose slander forc'd me hence to stray

Here years rolled by most unperceiv'd,
Free from all care, in thoughtless ease;
My pastimes now, though more refin'd,
Have not the charm, alas! to please.

Corroding care now fills my breast;
Yet when sweet hope does lend a gleam,
And earthly joys presents to view,
The scene is ever by thy stream.

My comrade, who sat patiently while I took down the above lines, now urged me to renew our journey. I arose, not without emotion, and we resolved to take the upper road by Doagh; but first it will be necessary to give the reader an account of Ballyclare, before we proceed further.

Ballyclare is pleasantly situated on the six-mile water, which runs through it, and is joined by a bridge with four arches. It consists of 102 dwelling-houses, containing about 500 inhabitants; the inhabitants and houses are nearly double what they were about thirty years ago. Near the centre of the town is a meeting-house belonging to Dissenters, but there is no established church here; yet as the people are nearly to a man Dissenters, besides mostly free from tythe, the want is not much regretted. Here is held a large monthly market for linen-yarn, &c. Fairs are also held near each quarterly term. It is also a post town. Some cotton is wrought here, but the mass of the people in the town and neighbourhood are employed at the linen business. Near the town is a cotton bleachfield, which employs a considerable number of hands. There is also a paper-mill. Adjoining the town are two Danish raths. The soil here is mostly a light mould, and pretty good, but in general cultivated in a slovenly manner. As I passed through, I looked for the little school-house where I first learned to read—it was now a ruin, and seemed to

'Ask from my heart the homage of a sigh.'

And, courteous reader, a sigh was not refused. The morning continuing calm and warm, we walked slowly, musing as we jogged along, on the universal beauty of the face of nature at this delightful season of the year; indeed she is now decked in her gayest attire; the trees are all in full foliage; very little meadow is cut down; the flax is in bloom; even the late potatoes, to use the farmer's phrase, have covered the clod, while those set early bespangle the fields with innumerable variegated blossoms; the corn has also begun to shoot forth its ragged head from confinement, as if to witness the general beauty of the scene—

"And all the earth with short-lived beauty
"glows."

Time and road both passing agreeably we soon reached Fisherwick, an elegant hunting lodge belonging to the Marquis of Donegall, near Doagh; the sight surprized me, as I had not been in this part for several years; the country had assumed a new face; the cabins of the peasantry had been thrown down to make room for stables, dog-kennels, &c. and instead of the fields rustling with corn, or blooming with the potatoe ridges of the neighbouring villagers, as when I saw them last, they presented tufts of young trees, shrubberies, walks, and fish-ponds, on the surface of which was a pleasure boat, and some beautiful swans. The man of pleasure may probably relish this "barren splendour;" as for me, I beheld it with regret, especially when those lines of Goldsmith struck my memory:

"The man of wealth and pride
"Takes up a space that many poor sup-
"plied;
"Space for his lake, his park's extended
"bounds;
"Space for his horses, equipage, and
"hounds."

The same author also very justly remarks:

"Thus fares the land by luxury betray'd,
"In nature's simplest charms at first
"array'd,
"But verging to decline, its splendours
"rise,
"Its vistas strike, its palaces surprize;
"While scourg'd by famine, from the
"smiling land
"The mournful peasant leads his humble
"band;
"And while he sinks, without one arm to
"save,
"The country blooms, a garden and a
"grave."

Indeed, at present, the rage for villas in this country, is not confined to the nobleman or landed gentleman, it has come to the merchant, and in some instances even to the mechanic. Leaving this place, we entered Doagh; this is a small village, consisting of about thirty dwelling-houses, situated on the road leading from Belfast to Ballymena, and about ten miles from each place. It contains nothing remarkable except its book clubs, which are the most ancient and extensive in this part of the country, the people generally having a taste for literature. Their club-room is furnished with globes,

maps, &c. Much praise is due to Mr. W. Galt, for his exertions in promoting these and similar societies, instead of the Royal sport of cock-fighting, &c. so very destructive of the morals of the lower orders of the people. Here is a neat inn, which we entered to take some refreshment; it is exceedingly regular and clean; in short, I think its whole appearance would have given satisfaction even to Mr. Twiss himself. We halted only a short time here, and leaving the main road, crossed the country to Hole-stone, the seat of Mr. Owens; this place takes its name from a very singular stone, set upright a few fields from his house. This stone stands on a rising crag, and is five feet high above the ground, and seemingly about two feet below it; it is three feet in breadth, and nine inches thick; three feet from the ground is a round hole through it, wide enough to admit a man's hand. tradition says, this stone was a land mark of the ancient Irish chieftains. We now pushed forward for Donogore hill, being curious to see the post of the insurgents of this quarter, on the 7th of June, 1798, where we soon arrived, much fatigued, the day being now very warm: we sat down on a crag near its centre; and as this hill has obtained a place in modern history, I hope a short description of it will not be unpleasing to the reader. This hill rises on each side by a gradual ascent, the summit is flat, and completely commands the adjacent country; the surface is covered with a light stratum of earth, overgrown with moss; the hill seems formed of a huge rock, as crags appear in several places. The adjoining country is mostly very fertile, intersected with numerous hedges, &c. which would considerably impede the approach of troops. To be as short as possible, I believe there is not a better position for an encampment of ten or twelve thousand men any where in Ireland. The assemblage of people here on the 7th of June, 1798, was of short duration; for on some fugitives arriving from Antrim, after the action there, the people instantly dispersed. From this hill there is a delightful view of the adjoining country, as also of Lough-neagh, which has more the appearance of a sea than a lough; Rams-island*, with its round tower; Shane's castle, Randalstown, Antrim, also the round tower near it; Templepatrick, likewise Castle Upton near it; also the neighbouring hill of Kairncary, on the top of which I was informed there was a large cairn of stones, similar to that on Slieve-true. We now arose and departed, and descending from the hill, passed by a large rock called the Priest's Crag, directing our course for the round tower near Antrim. The land we passed over was generally light mould, and seemed to need manure very much; however, as we approached Antrim it became much better, and we passed some fields of excellent wheat, in that state so finely described by Bloomfield:

" Shot up from broad rank blades that
" droop below,
" The nodding wheat-ear forms a grace-
" ful bow;
" With milky kernels, starting full,
" weigh'd down,
" Ere yet the sun had ting'd its head
" with brown."

We now arrived at the lofty round tower, it stands about half a mile from Antrim; in low ground, in a yard near the road leading from Antrim to Ballymena. We inquired at a house close by, if we could be permitted to enter the yard, to take a more minute view; a genteel elderly woman answered in the affirmative, and with the utmost affability, conducted us thither. This tower is perfectly round, both internally and externally, and is but little impaired by time; it is very high, and tapers about eighteen feet from the top in form of a sugar loaf; it is fifty-two feet in girth near the base, and seemingly about thirty-six near the top, before it begins to taper. At the ground are two circles of stones, projecting about eight inches each; nine feet above these stones is a small door facing the north, there are no steps up to the door, nor any appearance of its ever having had such. There are three tier of loop holes, for the admission of air and light; those near the top are round, and correspond

* This is a small island in Lough-neagh, situated about two miles from the county Antrim shore; and contains about seven acres of pasture. On it is one of the round towers, so common in Ireland.

with the four cardinal points; within are places in the wall for resting beams, evidently for the purpose of making the tower into stories. The masonry is good, and the wall upwards of three feet thick; the loop-holes and door are arched with hewn stone. Much attention is paid by the gentleman in whose yard it stands to this monument of antiquity, as he has had its base plastered, &c. within these few years. Tradition says the town of Antrim formerly stood here, and that this tower was built by a woman, but for what use is not mentioned even by tradition*. Having satisfied ourselves as far as possible, and returned sincere thanks to our kind conductress, we proceeded to Antrim, passing some fields of blooming potatoes set in drills, which for neatness of cultivation I never remember to have seen equalled. Antrim (antiently Andruim) is a market and Post town, situated near Lough-neagh, on the banks of the six-mile water, which disembogues itself into the lough a little below the town; it is 84 miles north of Dublin, and 12 N.W. of Belfast; it consists chiefly of one long street, the houses whereof are built of stone, brick, and clay, and are generally in a ruinous state; the number of dwelling-houses, or huts (for really the lanes, &c. are mostly miserable mud hovels) is 432; supposed number of inhabitants 2,500. The parish church stands near the centre of the town, it has no spire; a small belfry has been lately erected, furnished with a clock and bell; there are also two meeting-houses belonging to Dissenters. The Market-house stands in the street, at the west end of the town; it is a neat building, supported by pillars; above is a large room where the sessions are held. A market is held here each Thursday, but it is not very large. Near the market place is Mazareene castle, an old building; like every thing here, it is in a tottering state, and rapidly going to ruin. Here are large flour mills, likewise some breweries. Near the town is a small spring of Chalybeate water, much used for various diseases. The soil near the town is very good, and during summer the inhabitants make some excellent cheese for sale. A considerable number of hands are employed here in weaving cotton; the work all belongs to merchants from Carrickfergus or Belfast, who have offices here. Previous to the Union this was a potwalloping borough, under the influence of the Skeffington family, who, at the the Union, are said to have received 16,000*l.* as a compensation for their loss of the same. Few inland towns in Ireland are better situated for trade than this, on account of its proximity to Lough-neagh; yet with this great advantage there is very little commerce here. June 7th, 1798, a smart action took place here between a party of the king's troops, and a large body of insurgents; the latter were at first successful, and obtained possession of the town, but reinforcements arriving to the army from Belfast, &c. the insurgents fled in great confusion, leaving behind them three pieces of cannon; two of them had been previously taken from the army. The loss of the army on this occasion was twenty-one killed, and between thirty and forty wounded. The loss of the insurgents could never be correctly known, but is supposed to have amounted to nearly three hundred. Our perambulation having now sufficiently whetted our appetites, we entered a public house to take some refreshment; the landlady happened to be an old acquaintance, and received us with the utmost courtesy; and after fetching in some whiskey, brought us a more essential refreshment.

(To be continued.)

* Concerning the erection and use of these towers, history and tradition are both silent, consequently the learned have only been able to furnish us with hypothesis on that subject. Cambrensis speaks of them in the twelfth century, as being of great antiquity, but gives no intimation of their original use. Ledwich thinks they were built for belfries to the ancient churches. This, I think, is not improbable, as it is known, that the primitive churches in this kingdom were constructed with wattles, or willows, wrought in the manner of wicker-work. General Vallancey supposes they were built by the Phœnicians, or Carthagenians, in their visits to Ireland, for fire altars, depositories of the sacred fire. The latest remarks upon them are by Dr. Milner, who thinks they were built as habitations for certain religious recluses, in the early ages of Christianity.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

WE willingly lend our aid to the more generally diffusing of the following cautions recommended by the physicians and surgeons of the Bath Hospital, to plumbers, painters, glaziers, and other artificers, who are exposed to the action of the poison of lead.

We earnestly recommend these cautions to workmen engaged in such trades. A little caution may prevent disease and much consequent suffering.

To maintain the strictest temperance particularly respecting distilled spirits, which had better be altogether forborne—to pay the strictest attention to cleanliness, and never, when it can be avoided, to daub their hands with paint, and particularly never to eat their meat, or go to rest, without washing their hands and face. Not to eat or drink in the room or place wherein they work, and much less to suffer any food or drink to remain exposed to the fumes or dust of the metal in the workshops or warehouses. As the clothes of persons in this line (painters particularly) are generally observed to be much soiled with the colours they use, it is recommended to them to perform their work in frocks of ticken which may be frequently washed, and conveniently laid aside when the workmen go to their meals; and again put on when they resume their work. Every business which can, in these branches, should be performed with gloves on the hands, and woollen or worsted gloves are recommended; as they may be often washed, as they should always be after being soiled with paint, or even by rubbing against the metal.—Caution is necessary in mixing, or even in unpacking the dry colours, that the fine powder does not get into the nostrils, or be drawn in by the breath. A crape covering over the face might be of service; but care should be taken to turn always the same side towards the face, and to clean or wash it frequently. All artificers should avoid touching lead when hot, and this caution is especially necessary for printers and compositors who have often lost the use of their limbs by handling the types when drying by the fire after being washed. Glazier's putty should never be made or moulded by the hand. An iron pestle and mortar would work the ingredients together, at least equally well, and without hazard.—If any person in any of the above employments, should feel pain in the bowels, with costiveness, they should immediately take twenty drops of laudanum, and when the pain is abated, two table spoonfuls of castor oil, or an ounce of the bitter purging salt, dissolved in warm cammomile tea. If this does not succeed, a pint or two pints of warm soap-suds should be thrown up as a clyster.—As a preventative, two or three tea spoonfuls of salad oil, taken in a small cup of gruel, are likely to be of service, if taken daily, and steadily pursued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE happiness to be derived from a country life, and rural occupations, has deservedly employed the pen, both of the poet and the philosopher, and has been acknowledged in all ages. It must, however, be confessed, that to some the town has likewise its attractions. To these people, who find in the bustle and confusion of business or amusement, a thousand sources of pleasure, the solitude of the country would appear intolerable. Yet when we draw a fair comparison between the two ways of life, we cannot but be astonished, that so many should prefer the tumults of the city, to the calm and genuine pleasures of a country life.

When we are stunned by the discordant tones of criers, the jingling of carts, and the deafening noise of drums and trumpets, the heart pants for the calm quiet of retirement. The man of sensibility and reflection, disgusted with such tumultuous scenes, longs to fly from them, and to bury himself in the deepest recesses of some dark and silent glen, to throw himself on the banks of a winding rivulet, and listen to its gurgling sounds as it murmurs slowly along. The rugged mountains rising to immense heights, and in a thousand different shapes on every side, fill the mind with sublime

and pleasing ideas and reflections. In such sequestered scenes, the purest pleasures are to be found, pleasures which kings and courtiers never experience, surrounded by crouds of sycophants, and in possession of all that power can bestow. Here the mind unbends itself, and awakened to the finer feelings which a view of the works of nature excites, forgets for a moment all those projects of ambition, and those desires that render mankind unhappy. In retirement alone can we experience those delicious sensations which form the purest sources of delight to a warm imagination.

In the busy scenes of the world, the softer feelings of nature become blunted, by being suppressed when interest or pleasure comes in competition. The mind, accustomed to deceit and falsehood, becomes distrustful, and is no longer capable of receiving the warm impression of any noble sentiment, which too much commerce with the world destroys. In the calm retirement of a country life, we behold man in a different light and with more pleasing sensations. Undisturbed by those jarring passions and that unsatisfied ambition, which never fail to bring misery and disappointment in their train, he employs his time and talents in pursuits gratifying to himself, and useful to his country. I wish, however, to observe, that it is only the man of true wisdom, and who knows how to place a right value on the gifts and the enjoyment of nature, that can feel the degree of pure happiness to be experienced in retirement from the bustle of life. The wretch who sacrifices every thing great and honourable to interest or passion, dead to the noblest feelings of humanity, can never receive delight from the sublime and innocent emotions excited by nature's works. Happy is he who can look with a philosophical contempt on the vain and childish pursuits which engross the bulk of mankind, and who living to nature alone, knows how to relish her simple gifts.

"Oh! knew he but his happiness, of men
The happiest he, who far from public rage,
With a choice few retired,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the rural life."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

I AM a subscriber to your useful and entertaining Magazine, and request a spare corner for the few following lines. On looking over No. 6th, I saw some extracts from the Hibernian Bible Society, also an account of a letter from a clergyman in a populous part of the north of Ireland, stating that in his neighbourhood the bible "could not be procured for any money"!!! I would ask this clergyman in what part of the north of Ireland he lives: I have been through all the counties in the province of Ulster, and was led to think the communications with Belfast, Newry, Coleraine, and Derry, extended through the northern districts. In all these and most other inland towns in Ulster, there are respectable booksellers, who import and sell the scriptures at a fair value. I have no doubt of the purity and laudable designs of the society, but I would beg leave to drop a hint or two on the subject.

I live in a populous part of the north of Ireland, also where a number of very poor families are; so soon as our good clergyman proposed the plan of raising money for purchasing the scriptures for the poor, I was anxious to contribute my mite and encourage others, but I confess after the books arrived, and our clergyman appointed a day for giving them out I was much disappointed. Instead of seeing the poor supplied, few but the wealthy were receiving any; the reason was, that the very poor went to receive them gratis; and although reduced one eighth, one fourth, or as some say, one half, yet even this they were unable to pay. Is this the design of the society? Would it not answer a better end that in each congregation, or district, a few people be appointed to inquire who are unable to purchase, and let them have the scriptures gratis; and the second class be allowed to purchase at a reduced price: and if the clergymen are become retailers, let them take a fair price, so that the fair dealer may not be injured, but have an equal chance for his share, &c. as I assure you Mr. Editor, I have known

hawkers receive copies of the new-testament, from agents of the society, which I think was not the original design. Yours, &c. M.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF JOHN DE COURCEY, BARON OF KINSALE.

THE following romantic account of this ancient baron, in which is assigned the cause of the singular privilege still retained in that family, of appearing covered in the royal presence, may not be unacceptable.

John De Courcey, the descendant of a noble family who had come into England with William the first, signalised himself in Ireland, when very young, during the reign of Henry II. where it is said he fought five great battles, and conquered the whole province of Ulster, and part of Connaught.

In the year 1183 he was created earl of Ulster, and lord Connaught, and Henry the second granted him by patent, to continue to his heirs, the property of all the lands in Ireland that he could conquer with his sword, together with the donation of bishopricks and abbies, reserving only homage and fealty.

For some time after this he was governor of Ireland, either in conjunction with William Fitz Aldelme, or by himself. But in the year 1200, Hugh Lacy the younger, earl of Meath, was joined with him in the government.

Some time after, his colleague, by his artifices, contrived to injure him in the king's opinion, and at length to supplant him altogether. The crime of which he was accused was, speaking disrepectful words, highly reflecting on the king, concerning the murder of his nephew, Arthur, duke of Brittany. This accusation irritated king John so much, that he made Lacy sole governor, and ordered him to seize the earl of Ulster and send him prisoner to England.

Lacy gladly obeyed the command, and attempted several times to take him by force, but finding that would not do, he at length hired some of the Earl's servants to betray him. Their treachery took effect on Good Friday: for, on that day, as the earl, according to the devotion of those times, was walking unarmed, and barefooted, round the church-yard of Downpatrick, for penance, Lacy and his party fell on him unawares. He having nothing to defend himself, seized a wooden cross that stood in the church yard. It is reported, says the chronicler who relates these anecdotes, that he slew thirteen of Lacy's men, but being at length overpowered, he was forced to submit.

The traitors met with the due reward of such a service; they asked their employer for a passport for England, with a certificate of the good service they had performed: he acquiesced in their desire, and gave them a letter, with directions that they should neither open it till it was demanded from them, nor ever return to Ireland. The contents were as follow:

"I, Hugh De Lacy, Lord Justice of Ireland, servant to my dread sovereign Lord King John, to all that shall read these letters, greeting: Know ye, that these men, whose names are under written, served some time Sir John De Courcey, late earl of Ulster, but now in durance in the tower of London, and for a sum of money betrayed their master into my hands: I deem them no better than Judas the traitor. How hardly soever I have conceived of Courcey, I hold them a thousand times more damnable traitors; wherefore, let no subject within the king's dominion give them any entertainment, but spit in their faces, and suffer them to rogue about, and wander like Jews."

He provided them with a vessel and provisions, but gave them no pilot or sailors; so that through want of skill they could not keep their course, but after having been tossed about for some time at the will of the wind and tide, they at length got into the harbour of Cork. Here they were no sooner landed than they were apprehended, and after undergoing a trial, convicted of having returned contrary to the Lord Justice's orders, and by his direction all hanged together.

De Courcey, after having been thus made prisoner, was sent to England, and lodged in the tower of London, where he was kept in confinement for more than a year: he owed his liberty

to the following cirsumstance: A dispute having arisen between king John and Philip Augustus, king of France, concerning the title to the dutchy of Normandy: it was proposed by the French king, to prevent the unnecessary spilling of blood, that the dispute should be decided by single combat. King Philip being present, and a French champion ready, king John, though unwilling to risque the title upon one man's fortune, determined to accept the challenge; yet he was for some time at a loss whom to name, until one of his friends reminded him of De Courcey, who was still a prisoner in the king's hands. When he was asked by the king if he would be content to fight in his quarrel; "Not for thee," said the earl, "whose person I esteem unworthy the adventure of my blood, by reason of the ungrateful returns thou hast made me for my faithful services and loyalty to the crown, in imprisoning me unheard, at the suit of my rival and enemy Hugh De Lacy; but for the crown and dignity of the realm, in which many a good man liveth against thy will, I shall be content to hazard my life." These words were not taken ill at the time, being considered as proceeding from an affected mind of him that was esteemed more plain than wise; whereupon it was agreed that he should be dieted, apparelled, and armed to his content, and that his own sword should be brought him out of Ireland; therefore being much made of, and cherished with large allowances after his hard keeping, the French challenger at first sight took him for a monster.

The day came, the place appointed, the lists provided, the scaffolds set up, the princes with their nobles on each side; and many thousand spectators being present, forth comes the French champion; he gives a turn or two, and rests him in his tent.

They then sent for De Courcey, who all this time was trussing himself in his tent with strong leather points; he answered the messengers, "If any of the company were to go to such a banquet, I think he would not make any great haste."

Forth he comes, at length, gives a turn, and goes into his tent; when the trumpets sounded to battle, forth come the combatants, and survey each other: Courcey beheld the challenger with a wonderful stern countenance, and passed him by, while the Frenchman did not at all like his grim look, and the strong proportions and muscles of his body, as he stalked along. When the trumpets sounded the last charge, Courcey drew out his sword, at sight of which the Frenchman ran away, and conveyed himself to Spain; whereupon they sounded victory to the earl of Ulster. The spectators huzza'd, clapped their hands, and threw up their caps.

Philip, the French king, being desirous to see De Courcey, requested king John that he might be called, to shew before them some part of his great strength, by striking a blow upon a helmet. It was agreed: a stake was set in the ground, covered with a shirt of mail, and an approved helmet set thereon. De Courcey drew his sword, and looking wonderfully stern upon the kings, with one blow he gave such a stroke to the helmet, that he cleft it asunder, together with the shirt of mail. The sword stuck so fast in the log, that no man there was able to pull it out again but the earl himself; which sword, it is said, is preserved in the tower of London to this day.

The kings asked him what he meant by looking on them with such a grim and froward countenance, before he gave the blow to the helmet? He answered, that if he had missed his blow upon the block, he would have killed the whole company, as well the kings as others.

After this noble performance, the king restored him to his former titles, and also gave him his estate, which was then valued at twenty-five thousand marks per annum, and likewise bid him ask for any thing else in his gift he had a mind to, and it should be granted. The earl replied, he had titles and estate enough, but desired that he and his successors, the heirs male of his family, after him, might have the privilege to stand covered in the royal presence of him and his successors, the kings of England, after the first obeisance. The king granted this; and the said privilege is preserved in the family to this day.

De Courcey was of colour white, mighty large bones and sinews, tall, and broad in proportion of body, so that his strength was thought to exceed all others; in boldness incomparable, and a warrior even from his youth.

The earl, after this, attempted fifteen times to cross the seas to Ireland, but was always put back by contrary winds; whereupon he altered his resolution, and went to France, where he died, about the year 1210.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE LISTENER, NO. I.

Semper ego auditor—

WALLS, they say, have ears—so they should—how many notable discoveries would otherwise be lost to the world—how much good would be unknown, how much wickedness undetected, were it not for these silent informers? How little would the ruffian and debauchee be restrained from their secret practices, how little compunction would they feel on committing them, were not the voice within seconded by the ear without. The science, or to speak more philosophically, the mystery of listening, has not been sufficiently attended to; on the contrary, instead of being praised and admired, it is the subject of universal obloquy. I might myself have been carried away by the same prejudices against it as affect the multitude, had I not considered that every great improvement has had to struggle against ignorance and error; and even in this enlightened age I would hardly venture to stem the torrent of popular opinion that is directed against it, did I not see that truth is always ultimately triumphant; that the martyr of to day will be the saint of to-morrow. Galileo was thrown into prison for venturing to assert the motion of the earth: and friar Bacon was strongly suspected of dealing with the devil. Not to multiply instances, the first inventor of a speaking automaton was persecuted as a sorcerer: hence I infer, that if a signal improvement in the art of speaking met with such an ungrateful reception, it is not to be wondered at, that the first refiner of the art of hearing should have equal obstacles to obstruct his progress. But great is truth, and it will prevail. Although at present the listener is hated, shunned, and kicked out of company, the time, I trust, is not far distant, when undeserved reproach will be overpaid with well-earned admiration, and the author of the art will receive the reward of his present labours and risques. Then perhaps I will appear immortalized in brass, an everlasting monument of the progress of public opinion, standing on tip-toe, the right hand open, and drawn close to the cheek, to break the current of air that might otherwise disturb the sensibility of the auditory nerve; the left reverted to repress intruders; the neck stretched forward, the eye fixed, the mouth half open, the head inclined a little to one side; one ear turned downwards to receive the lowly creeping whisper, the other raised to catch the flying tale; and beneath, in letters of gold,

Ille ego qui primum—

Besides the advantages accruing to the public from the art of listening, those resulting to the possessor of such an invaluable secret are not few. It gives him an insight into human nature, exhibiting it in a view before unthought on. Men, as they are generally studied, are like objects seen through a fog, which never appear in their true form or colours. The listener penetrates the veil, he gets behind the scenes, and sees them undressed, unpainted, and unadorned. It must be confessed, that many of these advantages are owing to the secrecy with which this faculty is employed: a listener, when known, ceases to be a listener; yet such is the wise regulation of Providence to reduce mankind to a level, by balancing good qualities with defects, that what is gained on one side, is lost on the other. It appears so particularly in the present instance. Could a listener keep his own secrets, he would rise to an indisputed superiority over the rest of his fellow-creatures; hearing all, and saying nothing, he would be the privy-counsellor to all mankind, and regulate the world at his pleasure. To prevent this, and keep the balance even, it is remarkable, that whenever nature has braced the ear so tightly

that it is sensible to the least agitation of the surrounding air, capable of vibrating to the lowest whisper, and conveying it full and perfect to the brain, she has, on the other side, so completely relaxed the muscles of the tongue, that it ceases to be obedient to the will. The action of the drum of the ear produces a corresponding motion in the tongue, so that every sound that enters through the former aperture is immediately emitted through the latter. Sometimes she does not stop here, but as the bell often continues to tinkle when the hand that set it in motion has ceased to pull, so the tongue often says more than what has been communicated to it through the ear. In confirmation of this theory, Horace (who, by the bye, in joining the common-place cry against this noble science, has not adhered to his usual liberality of sentiment) has the following line

Percontatorem fugito, *nam garrulus idem est.*

Having said so much of the art, it is now time to state my reasons for appearing before the public. For the better understanding of these, I shall first say a few words of myself, my origin, and the means by which I became an adept. In speaking of myself, I shall not recur to my ancestors, nor lay any stress on what does not immediately concern myself; though, were I inclined to imitate the example of most biographers, I might dwell with no small degree of pride and self-complacency on their merits; the family of Dulman, from which I trace my descent, being well known to have been amongst the oldest and most respectable in the kingdom, not only claiming kindred with most of the peerage, both spiritual and temporal, but having the honour, as I have been repeatedly assured, of not being very distantly allied to majesty itself. From this, however, I assume no consequence, and shall therefore dwell no longer on it, but proceed to my main subject.

Most great men trace the origin of their future fame from their infancy, seeming to think that as the infant is but the man in embryo, so the intelligence that produces such fruit when mature, may be perceptible in the bud. Several prognostications of my future disposition, shewed themselves even before my birth. To pass over many, which I have reason to suspect were *ex post facto* omens, my mother, when in her pregnancy, had a most unaccountable longing for a dish of pigs' ears, and has told me more than once, that a short time before she lay in, she dreamt that she was delivered of a hearing-trumpet. When in my swadling cloaths I could never bear to have my head covered, and to this singularity of having the organs of hearing constantly exposed, I attribute in a great degree the strength of nerve and length of muscular substance that has given them such extraordinary sensibility. The latter of these was so remarkable, that at school, I went by no other name than Luggs. When able to take care of myself, my sole amusement abroad was riding a donkey, and at home, lying with my ear close to one end of a beam of timber, listening to the sound produced by a nail with which one of my playfellows scratched the other. As I advanced in years, I was remarkable for nothing but an impenetrable stupidity and aversion to book-learning. My parents attributed this to a want of intellect, and I have often overheard them whispering to each other, that I was born to be a perfect dunce. Little did they know, that at the time when my countenance indicated the most confirmed stolidity, all my faculties were at work within. While I stood in a corner, apparently listless, gaping at the wall, or sucking my finger, my ear was open to every murmur that circulated, and when they were vainly endeavouring to fix my eyes on my horn-book, they little thought that I was then most sedulously storing my mind with ideas from another sense.

Accident has given a bent to the studies of the greatest men; it was so with me. My first inducement to attend to Latin and Greek, was reading the fable of Midas. The long ears, the barber, the ditch, the whispering of the reeds, delighted me. It was the same with the Roman history. I drudged through it without pleasure till I came to the sons of Brutus, who were flogged to death by their father. Yet it was not they that excited my interest. The father's resolution, or the sons' sufferings, would never have raised either my admiration or pity. Vindicius was

my hero. His slinking into the inner room, overhearing the plans of the conspirators, and obtaining liberty and honour by the discovery, decided me in his favour. But of all the remarkable men of antiquity, Dionysius of Sicily was my favourite. His mode of detecting conspiracies was a masterpiece of ingenuity. Often have I determined to take a voyage into Sicily, where I understand that precious morsel of antiquity still exists, to examine his ear, and take a model of it for my own use. Nay, I long had thoughts of constructing one of the same form at home, and would have attempted it, had I not reflected on the difficulty of bring ng those into it from whom I wished to make discoveries. However, I have it in contemplation to make a portable ear on the same principles. I design to construct it in the form of a lady's parasol, which, by collecting the whispers of those beneath into a focus at the top, may be conveyed to the the listener, when placed at a proper distance. What pleasure shall I not feel in overhearing the unreserved tattle of a couple of female gossips, who are unburdening themselves to one another as they go along the public walks, little suspecting that every word is noted down by me as I walk along gravely and silently on the other side of the street. I must request the reader to keep what I have now said a secret, as, if known, the ladies, from whom I expect to collect the greatest part of my information, may take the alarm, throw aside this fashionable appendage to their summer walks, and thus destroy my project in embryo. In the mean time I have not been idle in seizing every opportunity that presented itself, of investigating the private history of my neighbours, and have already laid up a stock of secret history that will one day surprize the world.

In the course of my studies, though I have no reason to find fault with my progress, I have not been without my sufferings and disappointments. At the very outset I was nearly discouraged from proceeding, by the following unlucky accident: I was extremely curious to overhear a conversation between a lady, into whose family I had wormed myself in the character of a toad-eater, and her physician. I therefore placed myself in a small closet, where I lay safe from discovery. Many close questions were put, and I was on the point of making a notable discovery in medicine, when an unlucky sneeze that I could not repress broke all my measures. The lady instantly started up. The physician burst into the closet, and though I appeared fast asleep, and snored most naturally, it would not do. I was taken by the nose, led down stairs to the great hall, and handed over to the discipline of the servants, whom the cries of their mistress on finding a stranger in her bed-chamber, had collected. By them I was conducted in procession to the stable yard, and being placed under the pump, received an ablution that would have roused Morpheus himself from his slumbers in the middle of December. At another time I was feasting myself on a love scene, which I overheard through a partition. I listened in rapture, and watched in silent expectation to detect the parties, who, as far as I could collect from the words I caught, could not have been on terms of closer intimacy; how great was my disappointment, when I found it to be an elderly maiden lady, who was diverting her solitude by reading aloud, or rather acting to herself a chapter in one of Lewis's romances. At a country inn where I once stopped for the night, I overheard a stranger in the next apartment speaking to himself in the most energetic manner. My curiosity had been already excited by what I had heard of him from the house-maid; for it is my constant rule to collect all the previous information in my power, as a clue to my solitary investigations. I could hear him call upon God; curse his own destiny; exclaim against the world, himself, and heaven. I began to be alarmed; at length the following expressions caught my ear——"It is enough, my liberty is in my own hands: a single effort releases me from a life of misery—shall I hesitate to break my shackles—no—this moment—" I could no longer restrain myself, but burst into the room, and found that the purposed suicide was an itinerant preacher, who was rehearsing a sermon that

he was to preach *extempore* on the following evening. These, and other similar checks, did not damp me; the spirit of inquisitiveness was rather incited by them; they were useful lessons, which have not a little tended to make me complete master of the art.

And now for my reasons—The first and most urgent is, to rid myself of a burden too weighty for me. This I ought to conceal; but it is impossible for one who is always hearing truths, not to be sometimes guilty of telling them. If the redundancies of my brain be of equal use to the public with the laborious scrapings of others, I see no reason why they should be dissatisfied. If the effect be good, they need not quarrel at the cause that produces it. Another reason is this; by such a copious and speedy discharge of the contents of my brain, a vacuity will be occasioned, which, if we may judge of the intellectual by the corporeal part of our frame, excites very painful sensations, and demands an extraordinary supply. A man is never so hungry as after sea-sickness. When therefore I lay my stores before the public, I intend to invite those affected with the *cacoethes loquendi*, to make me the depository of their surplus of intelligence, so that filling up on one side what pours out at the other, a constant supply may be maintained. It will be an equitable account, a sort of banking business, now so much in fashion, where the bills coming in as the notes issue out, supply a constant paper currency, and prevent the danger of a stoppage. Or, to speak philosophically, it may be considered as a Galvanic circuit, in which a hidden subtile fluid produced from vitriol and water, acid and insipidity, entering in through the zinc at one side, and going out through the copper at the other, produces an incessant flow, which though invisible and imperceptible, when suffered to perform its round undisturbed, acts instantly on him who ventures to interrupt its progress. Galvanism, we are told, cannot raise the dead to life, nor restore a lost eye, but is a sovereign remedy for tooth-aches and rheumatisms*. The art of Listening is not likely to be brought to such an *experimentum crucis*. One would be unwilling to stifle a reputation, as you would hang up a dog, to see if it could be whispered into re-existence, or to extinguish a brilliant spark of genius, in the hope of lighting it up again by this new invented Gas. But in those mental diseases which are troublesome, though not fatal, those twitches of conscience hitherto deemed incurable, except by rooting out the part affected like a rotten tooth; those internal chronics that lie dormant in the sunshine of wealth and pleasure, and are brought on by the wintry blasts of adversity; in such cases it will no doubt be pleasing to all, to hear of a new, approved, and infallible specific, which can be used without pain, loss of time, or hindrance of business.

All this, I think, will be the happy effect of an art so long known, yet hitherto so little observed. In order to bring it into the notice it deserves, I propose soon to publish a hand-bill or advertisement, conformably with the practice of my brother experimental philosophers on the body corporate, stating "that whereas, Daniel Dulman, D. N. I. A. L. (Discoverer of the Noble and Inscrutable Art of Listening, has brought this science to such a state of perfection, as to render it applicable to the cure of all complaints incident to the human understanding, he is ready to give advice and relief to every applicant who will favour him with the state of their case, or visit him, at his apartments, No. 5, Botany bay, Hercules-street, three doors from the corner, up two pair of stairs, backwards; the above situation having been chosen, after minute examination of all parts of the town, for its health, cleanliness, and retirement. The utmost honour and secrecy observed. N. B. The Doctor's name is engraved in large capitals on a pewter-plate on the hall door. Letters (post paid) with the patient's state of mind, age, circumstances, &c. will be punctually attended to." It is also my intention to publish monthly lectures on the science itself, accompanied with extraordinary cases, experiments, &c. for the gratification of the curious. As pecuniary profit is not my object, I shall transmit these

* Vide the Medical Reports of the Magazine.

through the Belfast Magazine, and I doubt not but they will contribute to augment, to a very high degree, the reputation which that publication has already so deservedly attained.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ALTHOUGH you have been so unreasonably worried for inserting an account of Theophilus Lindsey, as if it were criminal to suppose a man may conscientiously separate from the church in which he was educated, and as if the old exploded doctrine of *the crime of schism* were to be revived in this quarter, although generally exploded in the enlightened parts of the empire, I hope you are not deterred from publishing such interesting facts respecting other dissenters, as may have a tendency to convey useful instruction. I trust your pages will always be open to whatever will have a tendency to liberalize the public mind.

At a late public dinner of the subscribers to the Unitarian fund in London, William Frend, M.A. the well known mathematician and astronomer, and author of that amusing and instructive periodical work, "Evening Amusements, or the Beauty of the Heavens Displayed," in which several striking appearances to be observed in the evenings of the succeeding year, are described; a learned man himself, took that opportunity of making some observations on the great and obvious difference between ignorance and want of learning. "A man might not be a scholar and yet a well informed man; as he might not be a well informed man, though a scholar. To teach religion requires only a knowledge of it, which a man may have without classical learning. To be able to tell the name of a candlestick in ten different languages does not carry a man a whit towards the right understanding of the New Testament." He defined the true province of learning, and described its usefulness within its legitimate boundaries. Fanaticism is the great enemy, from which common sense is a more effectual preservative than learning. If you are not tired with sound sense though from the lips of a non-conformist, I recommend you to insert the following letter written by the late Robert Robinson of Cambridge, a noted baptist preacher, well known and highly respected by many at that University—and which has lately appeared in an edition of his works. He was a man of undoubted piety, and though he appears to treat this subject with a certain air of jocularity, at which some may be offended, yet I think there is much sound sense in the letter. He shows himself a man usefully employed. I do not expect the full and useful occupation of his time throughout the day made his sermon less instructive in the evening. The Baptists do not consider that secular employment unfits for the ministerial office, and consequently many of their preachers are shopkeepers and persons in mechanical employments. I think I see a smile on the countenance of many of your readers; but before they are too hasty in their censures, it may be well for them to know that Robert Robinson was a well informed man, wrote much in defence of the christian religion, was free from fanaticism, no canter, and was highly respected by many members of the University, among whom he lived, as well as by others who differed widely in opinion from him. It is happy for mankind to learn to bear with diversity of opinion, and to open their hearts to look favourably on the merits of those, whose sentiments and theirs may be widely different. N.

TO HENRY KEENE, ESQ. WALWORTH:

Chesterton, May 26, 1784.

OLD FRIEND,

You love I should write folios: that depends upon circumstances, and if the thunder-storm lasts, it will be so: but what a sad thing it is to be forced to write, when one has nothing to say? Well, you shall have an apology for not writing,—that is, a diary of one day.

Rose at three o'clock—crawled into the library—and met one who said, "Yet a little while is the light with you: walk while ye have the light—the night cometh, when no man can work—my father worketh hitherto,

and I work."—Rang the great bell, and roused the girls to milking—went up to the farm, roused the horse-keeper—fed the horses while he was getting up—called the boy to suckle the calves, and clean out the cow-house—lighted the pipe, walked round the gardens to see what was wanting there—went up the paddock to see if the weanling calves were well—went down to the ferry, to see whether the boy had scooped and cleaned the boats—returned to the farm—examined the shoulders, heels, traces, chaff, and corn of eight horses going to plough—mended the acre staff—cut some thongs, whip-corded the boys' plough whips—pumped the troughs full—saw the hogs fed—examined the swill-tubs, and then the cellar—ordered a quarter of malt, for the hogs want grains, and the men want beer—filled the pipe again, returned to the river, and bought a lighter of turf for dairy-fires, and another of sedge for ovens—hunted up the wheel-barrows, and set them a trundling—returned to the farm, called the men to breakfast, and cut the boys' bread, and cheese, and saw the wooden bottles filled—sent one plough to the three-roods, another to the three-half-acres, and so on—shut the gates, and the clock struck five—breakfasted—set two men to ditch the five roods—two more to chop sads, and spread about the land—two more to throw up muck in the yard—and three men and six women to weed wheat—set on the carpenter to repair cow-cribs, and set them up till winter—the wheeler to mend up the old carts, cart-ladders, rakes, &c. preparatory to hay-time and harvest—walked to the six-acres, found hogs in the grass—went back, and sent a man to hedge and thorn—sold the butcher a fat calf, and the suckler a lean one—the clock strikes nine—walked into barley-field—barleys fine, picked off a few tiles and stones, and cut a few thistles—the peas fine, but foul; the charlock must be topped,—the tares doubtful; the fly seems to have taken them—prayed for rain, but could not see a cloud—came round to the wheat-field—wheats rather thin, but the finest colour in the world—sent four women on to the short-est wheats—ordered one man to weed the ridge of the long wheats—and two women to keep rank and file with him in the furrows—thistles many—blue bottles no end—traversed all the wheat-field—came to the fallow-field—the ditches have run crooked—set them straight—the flag-sads cut too much—rush-sads too little—strength wasted—show the men how to three-corner them—laid out more work for the ditchers—went to the ploughs—set the foot a little higher, cut a wedge, set the coulter deeper, must go and get a new mould-board against to-morrow—went to the other plough—picked up some wool, and tyed over the traces—mended a horse-tree, tyed a thong to the plough-hammer—went to see which lands wanted ploughing first—sat down under a bush—wondered how any man could be so silly as to call me *reverend*—read two verses, and thought of his loving kindness in the midst of his temple—gave out, "Come all harmonious tongues," and set mount Ephraim tune—rose up—whistled—the dogs wagged their tales, and on we went—got home—dinner ready—filled the pipe—drank some milk—and fell asleep—woke by the carpenter for some slats, which the sawyer must cut—the Reverend Messrs. A. in a coat, B. in a gown of black, and C. in one of purple, came to drink tea, and to settle, whether Gomer was the father of the Celts and Gauls and Britons, or only the uncle—proof-sheet from Mr. Archdeacon—corrected it—washed—dressed—went to meeting, and preached from, *the end of all things is at hand, be ye sober and watch unto prayer.*—Really and truly we look for you and Mrs. Keene and Mr. Dore at harvest; and if you do not come, I know what you all are—Let Mr. Winch go where he can better himself. Is not this a folio? And like many other folios? . . . . .

R. ROBINSON

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE following Proposal has been lately circulated through this town. The subject is important, and we heartily wish success to a plan calculated to relieve the really distressed, and to

force the idle and dissipated to work, if they expect relief. Such benevolent schemes frequently fail from want of exertion, and the difficulty of finding a sufficient number of persons who will permanently interest themselves to carry it into execution. We give a place to the Plan in our pages, to extend its circulation, and in hopes of stimulating the inhabitants of other towns to consider of the expediency of adopting a similar scheme of affording relief, on enlightened principles.

Proposal concerning a Society for the Abolition of Mendicity, and for the Relief and Encouragement of the Industrious Poor of the Town of Belfast, Published by order of the Committee appointed for removing Mendicants from the streets.

It is now at length universally admitted, after much consideration, and repeated experiments, that the most effectual mode of meliorating the condition of the Poor, is by adopting such expedients, as may awaken and encourage their industry, because these not only tend to lessen their immediate wants, but to introduce moral habits, which, if persevered in, may at length render them independent.

Pauperism, than which no state (if we except that of slavery) is more unhappy, nor more likely to destroy the amiable and respectable qualities of the human mind, may be aptly called a disease in the frame of society; and like other diseases, may be either treated with palliatives, which, while they give a temporary relief, do remotely aggravate the distemper, or else by such remedies as penetrate to the source of the disorder, and gradually restore the frame to a state of strength and sanity.

That the latter prescription is the most desirable, need not be much insisted on, and that the encouragement of industry is a remedy of this nature, must appear obvious upon the least reflection.

To bring this principle then into operation, it is proposed to establish a Society, whose first object will be to furnish the poor with employment, to lay in proper materials and implements, to discover new sources of industry where it may be necessary, to find a market for the materials when wrought up, and to pay them the full value of the work which they are able to execute, without any reduction, upon returning it to the Repository to be established for that purpose.

As it will always happen, however, that many, on account of age, infirmity, and other causes, will be unable to earn as much as might be adequate to their subsistence, their next object will be to make such addition to the earnings of the poor, out of a charitable fund to be raised for that purpose, as will be sufficient to give them a moderate support, provided always that they have earned what might reasonably be expected; that they have been prevented solely by the visitation of Providence, and not by any want of disposition to be industrious. Thus, supposing six-pence to be the sum necessary for a day's support, if a woman or child can earn at spinning, carding, &c. one or two pence, the remaining five or four pence is to be added from the fund, provided it has been ascertained by the Society that they have exerted themselves to the utmost.

If these regulations be adopted as fundamental, to adjust the minor arrangements necessary for their support and execution, will be a matter of no great difficulty; a meeting of the town should be called, a committee appointed; a house should be taken as a repository; and resolutions entered into concerning the subscription, and other general laws of the institution. It will be only necessary then to make a few comments on the nature of the plan at large.

In the first place, this is a most prudent and effectual scheme for the relief of the poor. It is a most prudent one, for although it be true that our obligation to do good and distribute are of the highest nature, being the dictates of religion, as well as of sound policy, yet the task is not quite so easy as may be imagined; for it is certain that the community has a right to the labour of those to whose support it contributes, and that none who are in the least degree capable should enjoy its privilege if they do not (when in their power) contribute something to the treasury of the public hive; and

even Christianity does not fail to instruct us, that he who does not work should neither eat, consequently, that if in obeying the precepts of charity, we at the same time act in such a manner as to occasion any serious violation of this order of Providence, our labours will be of inferior account.

To avoid this error, then, and at the same time, to afford sufficient relief to the wants of our fellow creatures, is the object of this Institution; it reconciles our duty to the poor, and our duty to society, which otherwise might seem at variance. It imitates the economy of Providence, whose invariable rule it is to help those, who are willing to help themselves, and by this means it both lightens the burthen, and brings new advantages to society, giving such a tone to the industry of the lower classes, as will effectually diminish the propensity to vice, and encourage them in habits of virtue.

This scheme is a most effectual one, for it extends relief to a greater number of cases than any other.

The poor may be divided into two classes, those who cannot contribute at all to their own support, and those who can. In the former may be reckoned the sick poor, and the young, aged and infirm, who are as it were insulated beings, and can obtain no assistance from friend or relative: these in comparison of the rest are very few in number, for they are very few who may not be made to do something towards their own support, and yet for their relief the town is already provided with an hospital and poor-house. For the latter there is none, or very scanty provision: and yet how many classes does it comprize? the mendicant, the roomkeeper, the stranger, the unemployed manufacturer, the unhired labourer, the decayed servant; in fact, all those, whose labours are lost to society, and yet who must be supported or perish.

All these descriptions of persons this institution proposes to take under its protection, and to furnish them with a small but adequate means of livelihood.

The mendicant can here obtain support; he will be deprived of his usual excuse, want of employment and inability to earn a sufficiency; and the feelings of the charitable will not be distracted as they often are at present, between the fear of withholding relief from the real object, and that of lavishing it on the undeserving.

The stranger also, if he happen to be in want upon his arrival in the town, can at once obtain subsistence by the exercise of his calling, without any other recommendation than his necessity, until he may be able to pursue his journey.

The room-keepers who can obtain none, or very precarious employment, being entirely unfit for any laborious one, who would rather die almost than submit to the degradation of beggary, will never feel ashamed to resort to a place where their subsistence is, or appears to be, the reward of their own industry.

The manufacturer, workmen and labourers, who from the fluctuation of trade, or the deadness of the season, are thrown out of employment and reduced to temporary distress, can here find a means of industry and support, until they can derive it again from the usual sources. But to detail all the advantages of such a scheme would be a work of much time and labour. They will easily develop themselves when it is put into execution.

But what is of unusual importance, if it be adopted, mendicity must gradually be abolished; for we can then with-hold our money from the vagrant beggar without reluctance, when we know that if he will assist himself, so excellent an institution is open to receive him, and the magistrates also may, without much danger of oppression, exercise the powers by law vested in them, of removing them to a place of labour or punishment.

That we have reasonable grounds for entertaining so high an opinion of the success of this scheme, appears from the precedents which, upon inquiry, have presented themselves. In the reports of the society for bettering the condition of the poor, there is an account of an institution, of a nature nearly similar, established at Edinburgh, vol. 3. No. 88, Page 221,

and the effects of it are thus described, "The ordinary class of beggars fled in general upon the alarm, and retired to quieter situations in London and other municipalities, where similar measures of prudential charity have not been adopted; and as to those who apply for protection to the institution, they express very strongly and very generally their gratitude for the advantages they derive from the charity, and look forward to its continuance with earnest and eager expectation."

In the parish of Shipter Moyne, also, in the County of Gloucester, an institution founded upon the same principles is attended with like success. Vol. 3. No. 86. P. 200. We are there assured, "That the work house for the women and children (who it appears are there employed during the day) by a most extraordinary and incredible metamorphosis is converted into a real house of industry."

If it appears to any person a matter of much difficulty to find employment for the poor, the observation must be confessed to be a true one; but let him consider that if it be difficult to those who have capital in their hands, who possess information, and know the proper use of money in commercial dealings, how much more so must it be to the poor who have no capital whatever, who are in a great measure ignorant of the modes of finding materials, and whose profits are generally wasted among the middle dealers. It is in fact, a matter of necessity, that the wealthy and better informed should exert themselves in favour of their weaker and more destitute brethren; for if they do not, one of two things must happen, either that the poor of this class must perish, or else be supported entirely by alms. As to the former it should not once be mentioned, and in the latter case they must not only be reduced to a more degraded state (as mendicity certainly is) that any we know of, but must become a much severer burthen than if such an institution were open to receive them.

The only objection then which can be made (if indeed it be an objection) is the difficulty of meeting with active supporters, but this we are happy to say is in a great measure removed, as many gentlemen have laudably pledged themselves to give personal aid in favour of the undertaking, and we are not without hopes that the liberality of the plan, its utility, and importance to society will procure it many and lasting friends.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

Concluded from p. 356, No. X.

TO complete this article I shall conclude by a few words on the herring trade. It is of great antiquity. Madox records that in 1195 the little town of Dunwick was obliged to pay 80,000 herrings to the crown. In the 13th century the Zealanders carried on this trade to a great extent and to this effect in the year 1282, they obtained from the king of England, a patent for themselves and the Dutch, granting them the right of fishing on the coasts of Yarmouth. It may also be seen from a diploma of Eric III. king of Denmark, that in the 13th century herrings were an article of commerce in the Baltic. This diploma granted to the people of Hamburgh a piece of land in the island of Schonen, for their residence during the fishery, and for vending their cargoes at the fairs. In this age also may be discovered traces of the practice of saving herrings, which was undoubtedly that of smoking. In the 14th century a fair for the sale of herrings was established at Yarmouth. In 1357 Edward III. prohibited fishermen from selling their fish any where but in that city. The Dutch, who till then had purchased their herrings on the coast from the Scotch fishermen, and afterwards exported them to other countries, were obliged to send vessels to fish there; for as the fishermen were obliged to bring their cargoes to market previous to their being salted, the herrings by the delay thus occasioned, were rendered soft and unfit for exportation. According to Maizieres the herring trade was also very considerable at this time on the coast of Norway. He says that in that country upwards of three thousand men were collected during the months of September and October, whose occupation was the

herring fishery. The fishery and trade in herrings still forms one of the principal branches of national industry, by which several tons of gold is annually brought into the kingdom. Though the fir-wood which the Norwegians use for making their casks gives a taste to the fish which is not generally relished, yet the Poles esteem it highly. Some years since the Danish government ordered the casks to be made of oak; but it was soon observed that the demand lessened. The Poles remarked the want of usual flavour, and it was found necessary to revert to the fir. With the Dutch this branch of commerce is still more considerable; whence it is that M. Carleson calls the herring fishery their golden mine, because in reality this nation draws more gold and silver from it than the others from their mines. At first, as has been already observed, this nation purchased their herrings from the Scotch; but their industry and sage regulations soon rendered their herrings preferable, not only to the Scotch, but even to the Flemish, which had been celebrated for their excellence. Yet the herring trade in this nation is not now near so extensive as it hitherto has been. In 1416 the first large net was made at Hoorn, since which time the Dutch have employed larger vessels. In 1552 the city of Enkhuisen alone sent 140 vessels to the herring fishery; and in 1601, five hundred vessels sailed from the several ports of the republic for the same purpose; and if Sir Walter Raleigh is not mistaken, at times 13,000 vessels and 450,000 men were occupied in it. This, however, is undoubtedly exaggerated, or else the trade has declined very considerably since it has excited the jealousy of other nations. In 1736, the number of vessels did not amount to 250. This number has since diminished; for in 1747 the Dutch sent out but 200 vessels, and in 1773 but 169. It would have fallen still further had not the States General, in 1775, offered a bounty of 500 florins to every vessel which went to the herring fishery. Notwithstanding this decline it still continues to be a considerable branch of industry; for it is said that 20,000 men are still supported by it.

The French also annually send out about an hundred vessels from Calais, Dieppe, and the other neighbouring ports. These are not so large as the Dutch, not containing more than from twenty to twenty-five tons. They fish either on the coasts of England, or in the Channel. They also fish during Autumn on the coasts of Normandy and Picardy; but as the sailors are not in the habit of taking provisions and salt along with them, they are obliged to return as soon as they have a cargo, and it frequently happens that before they can return the fogs which favour the fishery pass away, and the best opportunity is lost. The Swedes, who hitherto purchased their herrings from other nations, have within these forty years become more attentive to the trade of this fish. In 1745 a company was established for this purpose, supported by government, by means of which their herrings, and particularly those of Gothenburg, have risen to great estimation.

In 1764, fifty cargoes of herring, which were thought equal to the Dutch, arrived from this port to Hamburgh. From the same place were exported in the year 1771, 43,959 tons of herring; in 1772, 73,130; in 1781 and 1782, 200,000; and from twenty to twenty-two thousand tons of oil. Many load of herrings, smoked in straw, are brought into the north of Germany, from Swedish Pomerania. The Danes not only bring into Germany the herrings caught in Spring and Autumn on the northern coast of Jutland, and the isles of Ferroé, but they also send vessels to the coast of Scotland.

In 1767 a company for the herring fishery was established at Altona. Large quantities of smoked herrings are also sent from Holstein to Hamburgh and the neighbouring cities. Those called Kieler-Bucklinge are particularly prized. In 1770 a company was formed in Prussia for this fishery, and in 1776 six vessels were sent from Embden to the coast of Scotland, which returned with an hundred and thirty lasts of herrings. Since that time the number has been annually augmented; so the number now is from thirty-eight to forty-two vessels.

Herring oil is in Sweden a very im-

portant branch of commerce. At first the gills and intestines were the only parts used in this manufacture; and as this oil was in great demand, the merchant built manufactories of oil at their own expence, in most of the places where the fishery was carried on. These generally consist of eight cauldrons; four of these cauldrons were built in separate furnaces, so that the furnace being open before, afforded a separate aperture for each cauldron, and the four furnaces communicated within to a large one in the centre. To save copper they have invented a method of enlarging the cauldron with rods of pine wood, strengthened with thick bands of iron. The cauldrons are so built up that the fire touches but half the side, and the wall rises to within an ell of the upper surface of the rings, where a scaffold is placed, on which the persons stand who are employed to stir the contents of the cauldron with ladles of copper. Nine or ten tons of herrings may be boiled in one cauldron, and for this purpose from seven to nine tons of water are required: the water is conveyed by means of pumps. The herrings while boiling, are continually stirred until they are completely melted; then a little cold water is poured in, which makes the oil float, and it is afterwards taken off with brazen skimmers and put into leathern bags. When the oil has remained some hours there, and is separated from the dregs and the water, it is passed through a strainer into a large cask placed upright, which has a vent-hole about the third part of an ell from the bottom. When the oil has lain there some time, and the remaining dregs have fallen to the bottom, it is again filtered, and put into casks containing exactly sixty Swedish *cannes*.* It is then ready for exportation. It is absolutely necessary that the oil be completely freed from dregs and water, for otherwise these particles cause a bad smell in summer. The herrings are generally allowed to boil about five or six hours, and two or three hours more are requisite for it to settle before the oil can be taken off. In proportion to the fulness and freshness of the fish is the good quality and weight of the oil; when made of old herrings it soon corrupts. The more the oil is boiled the browner it becomes, and when boiled in cauldrons made entirely of copper, it is browner than in those enlarged with wood. Coal and pine wood are used for the fire.

A manufactory of four cauldrons requires from twenty-eight to thirty-two workmen. It is at the beginning of the fishery when the herrings are plenty and the price low, that the making of oil is carried on; when the herrings are dear, nothing can be gained by it. This oil is used for lamps, but not for leather, on account of its fluidity.

The mass which remains is excellent for land, for ground manured with it produces much more grass and corn than by any other kind. The farmer who resides near the coast uses it; but so great a quantity, consisting at least of some hundred thousand tons annually connot be entirely used in this manner; a great part of it is thrown into the sea.

At the commencement of the fishery, when the herring is large, a ton of them produces from five to six *cannes* and a half of oil: at the end of the fishery, when it is very poor, that is about the month of December, it produces no more than a *canne* and a half. A ton of oil contains sixty *cannes*, in the making of which from twenty to twenty-three tons of herrings are used.

* This is a measure of liquids containing somewhat more than four gallons.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IT may not be uninteresting to the readers of this magazine to see the plans attempted in the sister country to remedy the evils of their present system of poor laws—The annexed plan may serve to give a trait of the state of manners in that country, and also impress the truth of the important political and moral axioms, that an independence gained by the industry and frugality of the poor themselves contributes in an essential degree to their comforts and happiness, while a dependence on the contributions of others, by producing idleness necessarily leads to profligacy and immorality.

TRANQUILLITY, AN INSTITUTION COMMENCED IN THE METROPOLIS AS AN ECONOMICAL BANK, TO AFFORD PERSONS OF SMALL INCOMES, AN OPPORTUNITY OF PROVIDING FOR THEIR FUTURE WANTS, BY PAYMENTS SUITED TO THEIR CONVENIENCE.

PERSONS of all ages, trades and descriptions are invited to become members of this Institution, which gives to the most trifling subscriptions, advantages equal in proportion to those gained by the opulent upon large sums.

The members may accommodate the amount and time of every payment entirely to their own inclinations. Sums as small even as sixpence will be received, and payments may be made as often as once a week. There are no fines for omissions, should the subscriptions not be regularly continued; but all the sums subscribed, whether little or much, will be carefully preserved and increased at compound interest for the use of the Subscriber, and will be paid to him at the period of age, in a proportionate annuity for the remainder of his life.

BY THE PLAN OF THIS INSTITUTION, married men are enabled to make provision for their widows, whilst the full benefits of their subscriptions are secured to themselves in case they should survive their wives:

Single women are enabled to make provision for themselves, of which in case of marriage their husbands will be allowed to partake:

Children and youth may deposit their small savings, to accumulate for their benefit on entering into life.

As this institution has been commenced without any view to private emolument, the full advantages, whatever they may be, which result from its funds must be divided amongst the members, or their widows and children; it is therefore needless to hold out any of those delusive promises, which none but the avaricious can desire, and none but the deluded can expect. The members of this institution will however enjoy the superior satisfaction of knowing, that they will not be exposed to any of those forfeitures which frequently take the discontinued subscription of a poor man, to swell the annuities of those who have less need of it than himself.

Five highly respectable gentlemen, wholly unconnected with the contrivance of the plan, have consented to become the trustees of the funds for the use of the members; and all monies received at the office, are daily paid into the hands of the bankers to the institution, Messrs. Hodsoll and Stirling, in the Strand.

The office of the institution is at No. 2, Albion-street, Blackfriars Bridge, where the subscriptions of the members are received, and where all persons desirous of becoming members of the institution, or acquiring further particulars are requested to apply.

The rules and regulations of the institution may be had at the office.

Office of Tranquillity, 6th Jan. 1807.

SOCIETY FOR THE GRADUAL ABOLITION OF THE POOR'S RATE.—AT A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23d DAY OF APRIL, 1806, AT THE HORN TAVERN, DOCTORS COMMONS.

RESOLVED,

I. That the condition of a great part of the lower order of the people is extremely wretched.

II. That the many laudable efforts exerted by the liberal and benevolent to ameliorate that condition, have proved in a great degree inadequate.

III. That nevertheless such amelioration is as necessary as ever, and as much to be desired.

IV. That as it is possible that the principles upon which all former efforts have proceeded may have been erroneous, it may be proper to be guided by principles altogether new.

V. That therefore, instead of teaching the poor to rely entirely upon charity, they should be taught the value of depending upon themselves.

VI. That the most effectual way of inculcating this lesson, is by confining the liberality of the affluent to those only who do their best to provide for their own independence.

VII. That every one who in the time of youth and vigour treasures up all he can spare to provide for the season of age and infirmity, has performed the utmost duty that society in that respect can require of him; and if after those endeavours he has been incapable of providing what is sufficient to furnish him with necessaries and comforts, society is unjust if it does not make him up the deficiency, not as a matter of charity but of right.

VIII. That an institution which

shall enable the young and healthy to deposit the fruits of their economy as a provision for age, at the same time that it receives the aid of the benevolent and administers comfort without conferring disgrace, is entitled to support.

IX. That the institution commenced under the name of "TRANQUILLITY" being intended to promote these among other important objects, a subscription shall be opened to assist its establishment.

X. That the sums so raised be paid to Messrs. Hodsoll and Stirling, Strand, bankers to that institution, and be at the disposal of its committee of Superintendence or Directors.

XI. That a subscription of One Guinea admission, and one guinea per annum, shall constitute a member of "The Society for the gradual Abolition of the Poor's Rate."

XII. That every respectable person be invited to become a member thereof, and that each member be particularly requested to introduce as many friends as he can.

XIII. That the Secretary of Tranquillity be the Secretary of this Society, and report the progress of that institution to this society every quarter.

XIV. That any and all Expenses attendant upon this society, shall be paid at the end of every Three Months out of the contributions, and the balance thereof shall then be paid over to the committee of superintendence or directors of Tranquillity.

XV. That as soon as the directors of that institution shall find it convenient, this society will co-operate with them in their application to Parliament to effect the gradual abolition of the poor's rate, and to encourage individuals in the various classes of the community to make provision for themselves, by exempting from Parish assessments, on account of the poor, all those persons who are provided for by that establishment.

XVI. That this society will particularly attend to all communications of facts calculated to promote its object.

XVII. That this society shall meet every Wednesday at Twelve o'clock at Noon, at the office of Tranquillity, Albion-street, Black Friars Bridge.

By Order, W. Hone, Sec.

*** Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Hodsoll and Stirling, bankers, Strand; and by the *Secretary* at the *Office* of *Tranquillity*.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JOSEPH BLACK, M.D. F.R.S. OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH. BY M.B.L.S.

AS biographical sketches of distinguished persons occupy a capital line in your publications, I take the liberty of recommending to you a sketch of the life of Dr. Black, the late celebrated professor of chemistry and medicine, in the university of Edinburgh; not that I suppose lovers of science have neglected to hand down his name and merit to posterity, but that a more perfect history of his family and labours might be collected from the different recorded histories of him, than is contained in any one of them, by a person who was personally acquainted with him, and many branches of his family.

John Black, the doctor's grand-father, was an eminent merchant in Belfast, and was married to Miss Jane Eccles of Malone, two miles from Belfast; William the III, was her father's guest, when on his march from Carrickfergus to Drogheda.—Her brother Sir John Eccles of Dublin, was so much respected by the inhabitants of that city, that they honoured him with the name of one of their principal streets. John Black and his wife Jane Eccles, were patterns of piety and virtue; and they not only instructed their children in the principles of religion and morality, while they remained with them; but continued their wise instructions and exhortations by letters, when they were removed from them to far distant countries.*

* Extract of a letter to John Black, jun. dated Belfast, Sep. 8th, 1698.

"Son John, shun all occasions of evil, hate lying, swearing, and sabbath breaking. Begin the day with prayer, for a blessing on your lawful endeavours; end it with thankfulness for mercies; observe your master's lawful commands, from which withdraw not without leave. Your christian and dutiful carriage, will add much to our comfort, who wish much for your happiness. God direct you and grant you his blessing, is the prayer of your affectionate father,

JOHN BLACK."

John Black, and Jane his wife lived and died in Belfast, where their tomb still remains, on which is this inscription.*

The doctor's father, John Black, jun. removed from Dublin to Bourdeaux in the year 1699, where he was merchant and factor; and there became acquainted with Mr. Robert Gordon, who was likewise merchant and factor, and of the same religious principles. He was a branch of the ancient family of Gordon of Hallhead in Aberdeenshire. Mr. Black married Mr. Gordon's daughter Margaret, in 1716. They by this marriage had 8 sons and 5 daughters, all born in Bourdeaux. As there was no English school convenient at the time, the education of their children devolved upon their father and mother. They all grew up to be men and women, and were settled in different parts.

The situation of the family in 1764 appears in a note in Mr. Black's hand. John Black, as is recorded in the public register in Belfast, was born and christened there in 1681, was a factor at Bourdeaux during 57 years, at present, 1764 in Dublin. His numerous family of children, still alive, were dispersed thus: John his eldest son, his wife and children, are at Bourdeaux; Robert in the Isle of Man; Isabel with her fourteen children at Aberdeen; Jane in Dublin; George at Belfast; Joseph at Glasgow; Esther at Dublin; Alexander in London; Samuel at Belfast; Catherine at Newtownards; James at London, and Thomas in Belfast.

George, a merchant, lived and died in Belfast, and left a family.—Samuel, a linen draper, died likewise in Belfast, unmarried.—Alexander and James are still living in London, and Catherine (Mrs. Turnly) in Belfast.

When John, the Drs. father, expressed his resolution of leaving France, and returning to his native country, his acquaintances expressed the most sensible regret, especially his intimate friend, the great president Montesquieu, who on hearing his intentions of leaving Bourdeaux, wrote to him in the most affectionate manner; among many expressions of sorrow his letter contains the following; "I cannot be reconciled to the thoughts of your leaving Bourdeaux. I lose the most agreeable pleasure I had, that of seeing you often, and forgetting myself with you."

The antient judges, magistrates and most eminent merchants in Bourdeaux without the knowledge of Mr. Black wrote the following attestation. We the under subscribers, inhabitants of Bourdeaux, certify and attest that Mr. John Black, merchant, dwelling at the Charterhouse, is settled in Bourdeaux since the year 1699 and that he married a wife here, and carried on his trading business, always after a legal and fair manner, and ever has behaved himself so as to acquire the confidence, the esteem and consideration of all those acquainted with him, to the truth whereof we have signed the present certificate in Bourdeaux this 27th February 1755, signed, P. Nairac, Figer de Cater, Dubergies Laffore, &c. &c.

This with his contract of marriage, contracts for houses, cellars, vineyards, and lands, and the church of St. Andrews, and St. Seuerin's christening certificates of his 12 children, were sent for and delivered to Monsieur le Marquis de Tournyour Intendant of the Province to make his report thereof to the king's minister: these were all detained by him about three months, till by the intercession of first-rank friends at court they were presented. His Majesty then ordered that he should not be of the number of British subjects to be expelled, but remain as long as he pleased with his family unmolested in Bourdeaux; all his other papers were then restored, but the attestation was kept at Court.

Willing to end his earthly race in

* *John Black, merchant in Belfast, departed this life the 25th March,* 1725-6 *aged* 88 *years. Jane Black, alias Eccles, his wife, departed this life* 15*th October,* 1701, *aged* 48.

his native country, he returned to Ireland next year and purchased an estate in the county of Armagh, where he resided some years. He and his wife Margaret Gordon died in Belfast, and were buried in his father's tomb.

The character of John Black, the younger, is thus given by a gentleman who had the best opportunity of knowing it. He was cheerful and contented, benevolent and liberal-minded; he was industrious and prudent in business, of the strictest probity and honour, very temperate and regular in his manner of life.

His son Joseph, the subject of this memoir, was born at Bourdeaux in the year 1728. All the family were educated by their father and mother, there being no English school at Bourdeaux at that time. In the year 1740 Joseph was sent home to Belfast, and put under the care of Mr. Sprot, a relation of the antient family of Maxwell, of Comber, in the county of Down, who was eminently perfect in the knowledge of the learned languages. He finished the classical education of many learned men, such as Gamble, Ferguson, M'Tear and Haliday, respectable physicians in Belfast.

When Joseph finished his classical education he was sent to the College of Glasgow, at that time famous for eminent professors of mathematics and all the different branches of philosophy. When he had gone through the graduate's course, he chose the practice of medicine, as being most consonant with his philosophic genius and the improvement he had made in physical knowledge.

Dr. Cullen was at that time professor of medicine and lecturer upon chymistry in Glasgow; this penetrating genius soon discovered the attention, the diligence and the acuteness of Black, and his love of chymical knowledge, and gave him all possible assistance in his favourite pursuits; allowed him the free use of his laboratory: and adopted him as his assistant in making his experiments, which he performed then and during his life with admirable accuracy, success and elegance.

When Joseph had acquired satisfactory knowledge of the doctrines which Dr. Cullen taught in his lectures upon chymistry, the theory and practice of physic, he removed to the house of his cousin german, Mr James Russel, then professor of natural philosophy in the university of Edinburgh. This situation perfectly suited the genius and views of this persevering student; he there reaped the advantage of the extensive knowledge, the singular correctness in experiment, and the precision of thought of this acute and experienced philosopher.

About this time Madam Stephens's Remedies for the human calculus had gained great reputation. Although they were then known, it was supposed that some kinds of calcareous earths made better lime and lime-water than other kinds. Joseph then entered the list of experimental chymists. In his researches he found that magnesia alba was an absorbent earth, possessed qualities different from marble, limestone, chalk, and shells, and that it had when combined with acids very different effects on the human body, from these substances. When he in the 25th year of his age obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine at Edinburgh, he chose as the subject of his Thesis, De Humore acido a Cibis orto, & de Magnesia alba.

In consequence of the removal of Doctor Cullen from Glasgow to the chymical chair in Edinburgh, Doctor Black in 1756 was called to succeed him as professor of medicine and lecturer on chymistry. When Dr. Cullen was removed to the medical chair as lecturer upon the theory and upon the practice of medicine, alternately with Doctor Gregory, Doctor Black was looked up to, as the only man capable of supporting the reputation in this branch which this celebrated school had acquired in every other.

The merit of Doctor Black, the intention of the town council and professors of Edinburgh having been known at Glasgow, his fellow professors convinced they could not have an opportunity of hearing lectures on chymistry so extensively useful, generally attended him the season previous to his removal; a compliment so great they had not before paid to any other professor. Agreeably to the expectations and wishes of all who knew his merit, he was chosen professor of

chymistry in Edinburgh on the 17th of April 1766. In this situation he did not disappoint the expectations of his friends; he taught the theory and practice of chymistry for 30 years with a reputation always increasing.

He was disposed to asthma and spitting of blood which necessarily obliged him to observe a low, cool regimen; he was consequently pale and slender. His asthmatic complaints prevented him from using much exertion in speaking, yet he spoke with so much propriety and accuracy, and without any provincial accent, that he was distinctly heard in the most distant corners of the hall in which he lectured. In this he was greatly assisted by the silence and attention of his Pupils.

After the manner of Boerhaave, he divided his course of lectures into two sections; the first contained the theory, the second the practice of chymistry. In the first section he taught, with the theories of authors, his own inventions and theories.

He described the experiments by which he found the qualities of magnesia. 1st. That it was not a species of lime, but a pure and simple earth; that it is found united with acids, as in sea-water, in the bittern which remains after the crystallization of common salt, in the salt commonly called epsom salt, and is often found mixed with limestone and with clay. 2nd. It is soluble in all the acids, but its attraction for them is weaker than that of fixed alkali, or of calcareous earth, but equal to the attraction of volatile alkali for them. 3d. That it unites with the gas formerly called by Dr. Hales fixed air, more strongly than volatile alkali, but not so strongly as calcareous earth or fixed alkali does.

By his experiments upon magnesia and calcareous earths, he found out the qualities of the gas called fixed air, now by the French chymists named carbonic acid gas. He found the effects it has upon pure calcareous earth, or lime, and upon pure alkalis, upon magnesia, and upon water when united with these substances, and the effects it has upon the animal economy.

Ancient chymists ascribed the changes which bodies undergo in the fire, to particles of fire united to them, especially such bodies, as, after having been calcined, had acquired a great attraction for animal and vegetable substances, and a great degree of acrimony, called therefore causticity; such as calcareous earths calcined to quick lime, and fixed alkalis, exposed to great heat; but Dr. Black, by his experiments upon calcareous earths, found that fire did not add any thing to them, but expelled from them an elastic vapour, which, because it seemed to have been fixed or solid in stone, was called fixed air, which name he continued because it was already familiar in philosophy. He found by experiments, that 120 grains of chalk, by solution in acid, or burning, lost 48 grains of this air.

He found that the mildness of alkalis is owing to a great quantity of this gas united to them; and that it is separable from them by quick-lime, and that then the alkalis are caustic. And, as alkalis have a stronger attraction for water than lime has, they attract water from lime, and give it the fixed air. Solutions of them in this state are called caustic leys. When it is united to magnesia, alkalis, or quick-lime, they effervesce with acids; when separated, they do not.

This is the gas which escapes from liquors in the act of fermentation, and which is often found in mines and in caves, called choak-damp.

In the time of burning inflammable bodies, that part of the atmospheric air which is called pure air, unites with the charred substance, and acquires the same qualities as the fixed air; so does air in respiration: it extinguishes flame, and destroys animal life.

The weight of this air makes it capable of being contained some time in open vessels, and it can, like water, be poured from one vessel to another. This is the cause of the death of dogs in the celebrated cave in Italy called Grotto del Cané. While the master's head is above this noxious vapour he escapes unhurt; but if on the contrary the man would take in a full inspiration of it, he would instantly fall down dead. This air is the cause of the danger of entering vats from which fermenting liquor has been drawn without purifying them; and the danger of burning charcoal in close rooms

and shows the necessity of trying all such places as mines, caves, vats, and deep wells, with lighted candles; if it extinguishes them, it will certainly destroy animal life.

This air, so destructive when applied to the nerves, is most salutary when taken into the stomach, either in the form of gas, or when united to water; it is then a very agreeable acid liquor. When externally applied, it cleanses foul ulcers, and stops gangrene. It dissolves the stone, or human calculus, and cures this most painful disease.

The astonishing qualities of this air soon attracted the attention of foreign experimental philosophers. Black's experiments were repeated and his doctrines confirmed and received in opposition to every received opinion to the contrary. They excited the attention of Chymists to the investigation of every elastic fluid, by which many discoveries of great importance in the science of nature have been made; the substances air and water, which were antiently supposed elements, are now known to be compounds; and many supposed compounds are now known to be simple elements. Hence the great discoveries of the different elastic gases, by Scheele, Priestley, Cavendish and Lavoisier, and hence the very important addition of pneumatic chymistry to the system. When Lavoisier published his book of experiments on respiration, he sent a copy of it to Dr. Black, and wrote to him—"It is but just you should be one of the first to receive information of the progress made in a career which you yourself had opened, and in which we all consider ourselves your disciples."

About the winter of 1756 and 1757 he discovered the doctrine of Latent Heat, which is great by the elegant simplicity of the experiments by which he demonstrated it; and great in its consequences, because it enables us to account for many appearances of nature, which cannot be accounted for without it. Latent heat is a degree of heat contained in bodies which is not perceptible by our senses, nor indicated by the thermometer, but on proper occasions assumes a sensible form. When water sinks the thermometer to 32°, the freezing point, it does not freeze till it sinks it 3, 4, or 8 degrees lower, and then only a small quantity of ice appears; then the thermometer rises to 32°, because the ice cannot contain so much heat as the water, it gives out its heat instantly to it. If sensible cold alone were sufficient to the congelation of water, the whole of it would be congealed at the freezing point, whereas it requires some days to congeal it, suppose the air is six or eight degrees below the freezing point. This does not happen till all the heat which is indiscoverable in the water, emerges and becomes sensible. The same happens in all bodies when they pass from a fluid to a solid state; again, when bodies pass from a solid to a fluid state, a great quantity of sensible heat is absorbed by them. When a thaw comes, the thermometer may rise in the open air six or eight degrees above the freezing point, and the snow on the ground will then be at the freezing point, and will continue at this degree for days or weeks, although it is certainly receiving sensible heat from the air all this time, and the water flowing from it is not sensibly warmer than the snow. The heat received from the air is taken up by the water, and retains it till it is again reduced to a solid form. The same is observable in all bodies when they pass from a solid to a fluid state.

When water has passed from a solid to a fluid state, and heat is gradually applied till it raises the thermometer to 212°, then it gradually assumes a volatile form. It becomes transparent and elastic like air. This is not suddenly effected, it is gradual, although the fire is constant and continually applied; neither the water, nor the vapour, or steam raise the thermometer above the boiling point, and we must chiefly remark, he put water into cylindrical iron vessels, and set them upon an iron kitchen table, which was red hot: in four minutes the water rose to the boiling point, but was not evaporated in less than twenty or twenty-five. Although the heat in this case was evidently gradually continued, no increase of heat was observed in the steam or in the water, yet that it is contained in the steam is evident from what happens in the re-

frigeratory of a common still; the water in it is heated as much by condensation of the steam of a pint of water, as it would be by cooling a pound of iron made red hot; i. e. the steam of a pint of water contains in it heat in a latent state, equal to eight hundred degrees, and upwards.

This is evident from calculation, by reckoning how much heat passes into the water before it arrives at the vaporific point, and then how long the heat is continued before all is evaporated, generally five times as long, as we may be certain equal quantities of heat pass into the water at equal times; then suppose 158 or 160 degrees of heat is thrown into the water, from the time it is set on an iron kitchen-table till it begins to boil, then 160 multiplied by 5, the time of its entire evaporation, is equal to 800 degrees of heat, carried off by the steam, and concealed or latent in it.

The same or similar appearances are observed in spontaneous evaporation. Dr. Black's doctrines of latent heat and of fixed air, are the foundation of the most rational theories of the heat produced by combustion, and breathing of animals: a vast quantity of heat is latent in our atmosphere, which becomes sensible when united with carbon, or the matter of charcoal, and becomes what Dr. Black and others called fixed air, because it was fixed in calcareous earths. In burning inflammable bodies, the carbon is united to pure air, and expells the heat from it which was latent in it, and causes it to become sensible, and can be communicated from one body to any other in contact with it. When animals draw pure air into the lungs it acquires carbon; becomes fixed air, which is not capable of containing so much heat as the pure air, leaves a great part of it in the lungs, which is communicated to the blood, and brings part with it in the breath. That animals acquire their heat by the lungs was conjectured by Dr. Black and Dr. Irvine, but the process was demonstrated by the late Dr. Adair Crawford of London, a native of the parish of Crumlin, in the county of Antrim.

This important doctrine of latent heat was never published by Dr. Black, but copies of his lectures were carried to the Continent by his students, who attended his lectures from every part of Europe. Some writers were improved by reading them, and published his discoveries as their own, as appears from a copy of a letter to Mr. James Watt, published in the 2nd. vol. of De Luc's Meteorologie, in which Mr. Watt insists that Dr. Black had first discovered and demonstrated, that heat is absorbed, and is combined with bodies when they are rendered fluid or vaporous.

The first work published by Dr. Black is his inaugular Disertations upon fixed air and magnesia, of which he gave a more particular account in a small volume in English, which he afterwards finished and improved in a Dissertation published in the second volume of the Edinburgh Physical and Literary Essays and Observations.

An Essay of his upon the effect of lime upon alkaline salts, and a method pointed out whereby it may be used with safety and advantage in bleaching, was published in Dublin, in 1771. A Memoir of his upon the more ready freezing of water that has been boiled, was published in the Philosophical Transactions of London, in 1774. An Account of his Experiments, and of his analysis of the waters of some boiling hot Springs, near Hecla, in Iceland, which contain flint in solution, was published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

A copy of his lectures was published by the late Dr. John Robinson, of Edinburgh, in two volumes, quarto, in 1803. A Letter published by Crell, in the 10th vol. of his Collections; another to Lavoisier, published in Annales des Chemie. Why a man so eminently qualified, did not join in the pursuits of Scheele, Priestley and Lavoisier, can only be conjectured from the delicacy of his constitution, which always was injured by confinement and intense study; they induced a spitting of blood, which obliged him to submit to a low debilitating regimen of diet; however, by this regimen his tender frame was preserved, and his life was prolonged till the 71st year of his age. Sitting at table, the 26th November, 1799, with his usual

fare, bread, prunes and milk, diluted with water, he was found dead, his knees close together, and the cup upon them, without having spilled a drop.

His servant found him in this seemingly easy posture, supposed him asleep, went out and shut the door, but when half down stairs, some thought or apprehension of danger struck him, he returned and looked again at his master; he went away a second time, and returned in the same manner, and upon examination found him dead.

So ended a life which had been spent in pursuit of useful knowledge, so far as the delicacy of his frame and his exertions for the improvement of his pupils permitted. His researches and discoveries procured him the respect and admiration of all acute and discerning philosophers; they laid the foundation of pneumatic chymistry.

The delicacy of his constitution prevented him from constant study, and a multiplicity of experiments; his hours of relaxation were spent in airing on horseback, and in the practice of the fine arts. His taste for drawing was correct, and he was a perfect judge of musick, he could sing or play on the flute, any plain air at first sight. Although his voice was weak, it was sweet and under perfect command. But he never indulged in poetical flights of the imagination. He delighted in the company of men of taste and literature, such as David Hume, Dr. Adam Smith, and Dr. Ferguson. They who were particularly attached to him, were those who had a taste for geological pursuits. Such were Mr. I. Clerk of Elden, who, although he was never at sea, by his work upon naval tactics, has taught our admirals to achieve the greatest victories. Dr. Roebuck and Mr. James Watt and Mr. Geddes of Leith, philosophic machinists, were particularly attached to him; so was Dr. James Hutton the writer of geological essays, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the great improver of his country, by introducing the Norfolk husbandry into it.

Dr. Black's taste was consulted not only in composition, but in musick, drawing, and architecture. That he studied elegance and simplicity appears from his compositions, and even from his lectures, as they are collected and published by Dr. Robertson; it appeared in his dress, his countenance and in his conversation.

Regularity and method appeared in his whole conduct; of this his last will is a remarkable example. His property was chattle; he so arranged it before his death, that his executors had the least possible trouble. The whole of his property was to be divided into a number of shares, which were distributed among his relations in a manner becoming the propriety and regularity of his character.

Separated as he was from his parents at an early period of his life, he did not forget their tender and affectionate regard, but continued to love, honour, and revere them. He and his brothers and sisters lived on terms of mutual attachment and love. He never lost a friend, but by the fatal stroke of death. His pupils held him in grateful remembrance.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

A Receipt for making Family Wine, extracted from the Bath and West of England Society's Letters and Papers on Agriculture, Planting, &c. furnished by William Matthews of Bath. One of the Correspondents objects to using spirits in the compound; they may be used or not at the choice of the maker.

TAKE black currants—red ditto—white ditto—ripe cherries (black hearts are the best)—rasberries—each an equal, or nearly an equal quantity; if black currants be the most abundant, so much the better. To 4lb of the mixed fruit, well bruised, put one gallon of clear, soft water; steep three days and nights in open vessels, frequently stirring up the mass; then strain through a hair sieve. The remaining pulp press to dryness. Put both liquids together,

and to each gallon of the whole put three pounds, good, rich, moist sugar, of a bright yellowish appearance. Let the whole stand again three days and nights, frequently stirring up as before, after skimming off the top. Then turn it into casks, and let it remain full and purging at the bung-hole, about two weeks. Lastly, to every nine gallons put one quart of good brandy, and bung down. If it does not soon drop fine, a steeping of isinglass may be introduced, and stirred into the liquid, in the proportion of about half an ounce to nine gallons.

N. B. Gooseberries, especially the largest, rich-flavoured, may be used in the mixture to great advantage; but it has been found the best way to prepare them separately, by more powerful bruising, or pounding, so as to form the proper consistence in pulp, by putting six quarts of fruit to one gallon of water, pouring on the water at twice; the smaller quantity at night, and the larger the next morning. This process, finished as aforesaid, will make excellent wine, unmixed, but this fluid added to the former mixture, will sometimes improve the compound.

Several hogsheads of wine have been thus manufactured by Mr. M. which was pronounced to be of excellent quality.

The Means of preventing the Decay of Wood; by Dr. Parry. From the same.

The dry rot is more or less a rapid decomposition of the substance of wood, from moisture deposited on it by condensation, to the action of which it is more exposed on certain situations than others; and that this moisture operates more quickly on wood, which most abounds with saccharine, or fermentible juices of the sap. This evil may be infallibly prevented where it is practicable to cover the surface of the wood properly dried, with a varnish which is impenetrable, and indestructible by water. The circumstance of having the wood properly dried, or seasoned, is of great importance; because timber, which is painted before its saccharine moisture or sap is exhaled, is often destroyed by dry rot. From the insufficiency of common oil-paint to preserve wooden fences, weather-boarding, &c. Dr. Parry made various experiments to obtain a more effectual covering. He recommends the following composition, which he himself has tried with great success.

Take twelve ounces of resin and eight ounces of roll brimstone, each coarsely powdered, and three gallons of train oil. Heat them slowly, gradually adding four ounces of bees-wax, cut in small bits. Frequently stir the liquor, which, as soon as the solid ingredients are dissolved, will be fit for use. What remains unused will become solid on cooling, and may be re-melted on subsequent occasions.

It is necessary to mention that compositions made of hot oil, should, for the sake of security, be heated in metallic or glazed earthen vessels, in the open air. For whenever oil is brought to the boiling point, or 600° of Fahrenheits' thermometer, the vapour immediately catches fire, although not in contact with any flame, and though a lower degree of temperature than that of boiling should be used in this process it is not always practicable either exactly to regulate the heat, or to prevent the overflowing of the materials; in either of which cases, were the melting performed in a house, the most fatal accident might follow.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

NEW MODE OF AGRICULTURE.

STRANGE and ludicrous as it may appear, the following economical mode of agriculture, was practised by a farmer, near Ballyclare, about forty years ago. Previous to sowing, he mounted the horse destined to harrow, and being furnished with the necessary seed, he proceeded to sow, harrow and ride all at once! This I believe surpasses any thing mentioned in the annals of agriculture, or by Mr. Gambado, in his annals of horsemanship.

MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. Shelly, of Jesus College, and vicar of All Saints, was a puritan, and lived early in the seventeenth century. He is described as "an old-fashioned good man." He made the following lines extempore, in reply to a question from one of his parishioners, as he was going to preach in his parish church. How long, Sir, have you and Mrs. Shelly been married?—The excellent lesson inculcated, render them worthy to be recorded:

"Fifty years and three
Together in love liv'd we:
Angry both at once none ever did us see.
This was the fashion
God taught us, and not fear,
When one was in a passion
The other could forbear."

CITY OF BAGDAD.

At the time when Abu Jaafar Almansur, Caliph of the Saracens, begun his reign (about the year of the Christian era, 754) the ground on which Bagdad was afterwards built, had nothing on it but the cell of a Christian monk, called Dad, and a garden adjoining it. Whence it took the name of Bagdad, which signifies in the language of the country *the garden of Dad.* The city being built by the same Caliph, on that spot, retained the ancient name.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF MACHABÆUS.

When Judas, surnamed Machabæus, took the command of the Jews who had taken up arms against the Sepians, he chose for the motto on his standard, the following Hebrew sentence, taken from the fifteenth chapter of Exodus. Mi Camo-Ka Bælim Jehovah: Who is like unto thee among the gods, O Jehovah! this sentence not being written in words at length, but by an abbreviation, formed of the initial letters of each word taken together, made the artificial word Makabi; hence all that fought under that standard were called Macabees or Macabæans, and their captain in an especial manner, had that name given him by way of eminence.

DEATH BEFORE DISHONOUR.

The Baron de Mizelandwitz was one of the Swedish senate that was deprived of its rights by the late king of Sweden, upon the memorable revolution of that government, which changed it into an absolute monarchy. Upon that event he quitted his country, though he possessed an estate worth 10,000*l.* a year, saying that he would suffer the most wretched exile abroad, rather than remain a slave where he had a right to freedom. He took up his residence at Hamburgh, where he lived ever after in great poverty, lodging in a miserable apartment, and waiting entirely on himself. The king wrote twice to him in the most flattering terms, inviting him to return to his estate and honours, but he never took any notice of the letters; and upon his majesty sending him a remittance to enable him to live more comfortably, he refused it, sternly saying, "I will rather die than receive a dollar at the hands of one who has enslaved my country."

DISAPPOINTMENT SOMETIMES USEFUL.

Disappointment of early views has been the means of advancement to several eminent men. Dr. Ferguson was disappointed in an application for an inconsiderable living in an obscure part of Scotland. Had he been successful, he would have been occupied with the duties of his profession, and his philosophical talents thus lost to the world. Had Dr. Johnson been master of the Staffordshire school, talents formed for the instruction of men, might have been wasted in the tuition of boys. Burke, when young, applied for the professorship of logic, in Glasgow; had he been successful, he might have been considered as one of the luminaries of that celebrated seat of science, but would never have acquired the honour and fame that his political pursuits have given him.

JUVENILE ANECDOTE OF EDMUND BURKE.

When Burke was at school, near Carlow, his teacher permitted his pupils to have a play-day to see the procession accompanying the judge on his entering the town, on condition that the elder boys should give a description in Latin verse of the objects they had been viewing, and their own sentiments on them. Burke gave a very full and able description of what he had seen and heard. A school-fellow, who on such occasions always

found it necessary to depend on the superior talents and industry of others, applied to him, but too late for any serious attention to be given to the subject; Burke, whose ideas were now nearly exhausted by the multiplicity of applications to which he had already acceded, wished to get some hints from the boy himself, but by all his inquiries could discover nothing that appeared to have interested his thoughts but a fat piper in a brown coat. The young poet therefore wrote a string of verses beginning thus:

Piper erat fattus, qui brownum tegmen habebat,

and continued it in the same style through a series of lines.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE SLAUGHTER OF CARMEN.

A BALLAD.

"CARMEN is now called Mullimast, or Mullach Mastean, the moat of decapitation. It takes its present name from the base conduct of some adventurers in the sixteenth century, who, having over-run much of the neighbouring country, were resisted by some Irish chieftains, who had properties on the Queen's-county side of the Barrow. The adventurers proposed an amicable conference to be held at Carmen; it was acceded to. On the Kalends of January (New-year's-day) in the nineteenth of Elizabeth, the gentlemen of the Queen's-county side of the Barrow, then the boundary of the pale, repaired to Carmen, as to an amicable conference, when they were surrounded by three lines of horse and foot, and not one survived. Thirty years since a hole was showed, where, it was said, the heads of the victims were buried; at that period it was twenty feet deep, it is now nearly closed. The successful assassins took possession of the properties of the unfortunate gentlemen, and the barony bears the name of Slieve Mauge, or the Mountains of Mourning. In such detestation is that act held by the country people, that they believe a descendant from the murderers never saw his son arrive at the age of twenty-one. Indeed the properties, so acquired, have melted away, and got into other hands."

Ruxson's sur. co. Kildare

"O WHITHER, whither do ye go?
Why are your steeds so sleek and trim?
While your embroider'd mantles flow,
In graceful folds o'er every limb.

Your mothers, wives and sisters fair,
These mantles form'd so rich and gay;
For cost and skill they scorn'd to spare,
To deck you for the holiday.

Forgive an old man's anxious fear,
My heart forebodes a day of wo!
Behold yon Raven hovering near,
O whither, whither do ye go?"

"O Patrick of the woody glen,
Whom much we honour, more we love,
Who sees, with Wisdom's sharpen'd ken,
The secret snare by malice wove.

These snares no more our paths infest,
We go to form the friendly band,
With confidence to arm the breast,
And yield to plighted faith the hand.

In open warfare long our arms
The intruding Strangers have withstood;
But now secure from war's alarms,
We cross the Barrow's silver flood.

The Rath on Carmen rises fair,
Thither our willing course we bend,
The strangers wait our presence there,
To hail us by the name of Friend.

Hence Peace shall bless the new-born year,
Our herds and flocks secure shall stray,
Our harvests wave the golden ear,
Our maids and youths again be gay.

O Patrick of the woody glen,
Call not this day a day of wo,
When men shall meet their fellow men,
And ancient feuds for aye forego!"

But Patrick bent his hoary head,
On earth he cast his mournful eyes,
And bitter were the tears he shed,
And bitter were his deep drawn sighs.

"O pride of Barrow's smiling shore,
Gay lords of many a fertile plain,
O turn your steps—or never more,
You greet your native shades again.

Methinks I see the bloody skean,*
Methinks I hear the dying groan,

*The long Irish knife, or dagger.

With traiterous guile your foes convene,
To make your fertile fields their own.
And must your generous bosoms bleed,
Which scorn'd a treacherous art to know?
And was this fate for you decreed?
O turn—to Carmen, do not go?"

"Oft have we listen'd to thy lore,
And oft shall seek thy counsel sage,
But now forbear to urge us more,
Thou man of wisdom and of age.

Let not thy pure, benignant soul
The pain of dire Suspicion know;
Permit not her aspersions foul
To stain "the brave, repenting foe."‡

"Soon shalt thou see these shadows fly
Before fair Candour's beaming ray!"
But Patrick veil'd his streaming eye,
And turn'd in silent grief away.

And now advanc'd the impatient steeds,
And bore their gallant lords along;
The fearless breast no danger heeds,
The guiltless heart forebodes no wrong.

And Barrow roll'd his silver tide,
Bright sparkling in the solar ray,
No sanguine stain his waters dyed,
No clouds obscur'd the golden day.

The Rath on Carmen rises fair,
"But why in arms the friendly band?"
Why rang'd in martial order there!
Why does the weapon fill each hand?

These hands, these eyes with scowling ken
Their purpose dire too well explain!
O Patrick of the woody glen,
Why was thy warning *heard* in vain?

The embroider'd mantle, roll'd in blood,
Flows graceful o'er the limbs no more,
Nor e'er shall cross his silver flood,
The pride of Barrow's smiling shore.

The pit is fram'd with ruffian speed,
The pit is dreary, dark and deep,
Fram'd to receive each gallant head
In cold oblivion there to sleep.

The mothers, wives and sisters fair,
Who anxious watch'd the setting day,
The dainty banquet now prepare,
And now accuse the long delay.

Ye beauteous ladies, leave your homes,
Some safer shelter haste to find,
For lo! the cruel spoiler comes,
And Rapine has to Murder join'd.

They seize upon these wide domains,
The flocks, the herds their prey is made,
Grim terror rules the subject plains,
And with reluctance is obey'd.

The stain of honour, manhood's shame,
For Carmen's Rath was this decreed!

While Mullimast, ill-fated name,
Records the base, the bloody deed!

The Mountains, which aspiring fair,
Smiled on the dewy vales below,
The title now of mourning bear,
As conscious of the voice of wo.

But vengeance comes—if slow, yet sure,
Her step pursues the band unblest,
And conscience bids these pangs endure,
Which rob the blood-stain'd soul of rest.

Their sons to manhood ne'er shall rise,
Their youth's soft blossoms shall decay,
And these fair fields of guilt they prize,
To other hands shall pass away.

BRIDGET.

‡ Anna Seward.

ANALYSIS OF 1809.

Continued from our last.

ONCE more, sweet Imps, I come to make my bow,
With meet complacency, inquiring how
You all have been since last I took my leave;
And that you now will kindly condescend
Truly and faithfully (as to a friend)
Each particle of news t' impart, I humbly crave.

Tell how the half-starv'd *Irish peasant* writhes
Under the lash of *proctor-gather'd* tythes;
How, ministerial apathy denies
Redress, though sought for by a nation's cries!

Tell, how the *writer-bartering, borough lord!*
To drive the Union,—*pledg'd*—then *broke*—his word;
Yet, out of ev'ry scrape comes off so nice—
"Sir, *vice*, when omniprev'lent—is not *vice!*
"Plund'ring the State, to gain a little pelf,
"Can be no crime—there's *Melville* and *myself*—
"Myriads beside—as all the people know;
"Then, who, unto my *blanket* dares say *bo?*
"Get into office straight, and cheat your fill,
"And when you'r blam'd—quote *me* and *Beauchamp*
Hill!"

"Stop, stop!" (the Imps I know will now exclaim)
"Is *Castlereagh* still to be your theme?
"Some virtues surely you'll allow the lad."
Assertion and *denial* (do'nt be pert)
Join'd with a cold, malignant, callous heart,
Are all the virtues that he ever had!

"Lord, sir, you really have a curious taste;
"Sure you'll allow that he is *marv'llous chaste!*
"That *Canning—Percival* * * * and *he*
"Are famous for suppressing *Popery!*
"Which, in their presence, dare not *even sigh;*
"While *Orthodoxy—Rev'nue—Church and State,*
"Are wisely guarded from the danger great,
"That *they* in *Toleration* can espy.

Allons mes enfants—answer me again—
Three victories by *Sir Arthur*—gain'd in *Spain!*
The *original*—where did his lordship get?
"The *original*, sweet sir, what need of that?

"Such things are made at home," we answer flat—
The *original*—he did not get it yet!

Well, let us all such foreign subjects change;
Come now, and soar above your usual range;
To Bishop's-gate* we'll march, if you think fit;
Where many a *bloated*—loan-contracting sinner
Sits down to gorge himself, at annual dinner
Given in honour of his *idol*—Pitt!

See *Canning*—when the sparkling glasses ring
With health of *Ferd'nand*, "*Spain's most lawful*
"king."†
How graciously he'll rise, and make a speech!
On *British generosity* descant—
About—"*a universal people*"—rant,
And on *official secrets wisely preach!!!*

"*Austria* (with our assistance (next he'll tell 'em)
"Must take the field—no matter what befell 'em.
And then convince them all beyond denial
That—"though she could not hope to win, 'twas
"right to make the trial."

The trial she has made, to her own cost,
And like *Sir Cranstoune's elfin dwarf*, may say
As *Walter Scott* hath written—in the *Lay*
Of the *last Minstrel*—"Lost—lost—lost!"

Well, gentle Imps, your modesty is great,
"We are not prophets, sir,"—you erst did state,
Then how the vengeance did you come to know
The event of such things so long ago?

"Lord, sir, 'bout Europe many a grievous task
"You've given us, pray why do you not ask
"About *America* and its embargo's?
"There's many a pretty ambo-dexter story,
"Which we could mighty featly lay before you,
"Respecting naval stores—and neutral cargoes.

Fdentecullo, 7th June, 1809. CALDERONE.

To be continued.

INSENSIBILITY.

ON BEING RALLIED FOR NOT GRIEVING AT THE DEPARTURE OF A FEMALE FRIEND.

MY tenderest feelings! ah, where are they fled?
Those sweetest sensations, say, are they all dead,
Say, am I no more for a dear friend departed,
To weep, and to sigh, and to feel broken-hearted.
There once was a time I could sigh and could weep,
And thought that my grief was both cruel and deep,
The scenes all around me produced nought but pain,
'Till my friend should return to these scenes back
again.
When the trees were all dripping with fine April
showers,
And the sun shone upon them, and spangled the
flowers,
I thought that my friend with new force could in-
spire
My fancy to see all these charms, and admire.
Or when in full concert the birds sweetly sang,
Their songs were divine, yet they caused me a pang;
Or in that fine season when active and gay,
Youth reap the ripe corn, or toss the new hay;
I thought If my friend a fair witness had been
'Twould add a new charm to the plentiful scene;
Or yet in those days when encircling the fire
Our wits, and the wits of our friends should conspire
The dull face of winter to cheer and adorn,
And forget that all nature is sad and forlorn;
Then sad and forlorn in the circle I sat,
Because my fair friend was not near me to chat;
My hours were fill'd up with some joy or some sorrow
Still hoping or fearing the events of to-morrow;
But in kindness to age which has oft real troubles
Those fanciful evils appear but light bubbles,
To prepare me for evils my passions are going;
No more are my joys or my sorrows o'erflowing.
If I wish for a friend I can patiently wait,
Till she chooses to come, whether early or late,
And when she departs I can scarce heave a sigh,
I kiss, and shake hands, and my eyes remain dry.
At first when I found that my feelings were gone,
The rapture they caused I could not but bemoan;
But now I'm resign'd to esteem as light bubbles
Both rapturous joys and fanciful troubles.
May the milder affections still reign in my breast,
Enjoying the present, and hoping the best;
Then if real affliction should visit my mind,
In calm resignation sweet peace may I find,
But oh! may I feel for the griefs of a friend,
Or my late acquir'd coldness soon come to an end!

FLORA.

WRITTEN ON A LITTLE SUMMER-HOUSE, CALLED THE SOLITAIRE.

AND didst thou not know 'twas my
favourite retreat,
When retiring from bustle and care,
In the stillness of Silence to take here
my seat,
'Midst the quiet of this Solitaire?

But 'tis lock'd, and an entrance I can-
not obtain,
And the thought that now thrills on
my ear
May be lost in the mazes of business
and gain,
Unimproved in this chaste Solitaire.

I remember the day I first enter'd this
room,
The lawn was new-shorn, soft and
fair,
And the treasures of summer diffus'd
a rich bloom,
Shedding fragrance *dans tout* Solitaire.

Then I thought of the days, when to
gladness and joy,
My heart alone panted sincere,

* *To the London Tavern, we presume.*

† *Either the minister or the poet must be quizzing; is not Charles the Fourth living?*

When the dawnings of reason peep'd forth in the boy,
To give zest to the scene, Solitaire.

Now around this white feminine mansion so neat,
May the pink and the violet appear,
May the snow drop of spring, and the cyclamen sweet,
Scatter perfumes round this Solitaire!

Be the walk that leads down from this charming retreat,
The resort of the Nightingale rare;
May the blackbird and bullfinch here nestle their seat,
And the linnet sing sweet Solitaire!

To entice from the house, in this season of joy,
The mother and daughters so fair,
To the scene of calm comfort without an alloy,
Embosom'd in this Solitaire.

May the spirit of Sadness be far from this dome,
And angels protecting be near,
Where the stranger and poor, as of yore, find a home;
Now adieu to my friend's Solitaire.

INSCRIPTION,

PROPOSED FOR THE MONUMENT OF LOCKE.

"Who made the whole internal world his own."
Thomson.

RAPT Reader, if thou seek'st to understand,
What wond'rous powers obey the human mind;
If Reason bid thee Superstition brand,
And Freedom fire thee to befriend mankind.

If thy instruction, up through Virtue's path
To Honour's dome, the aspiring pupil guides:
And if thou finds't that genuine Christian Faith,
With Nature's law completely coincides,

Approach, unblam'd, and venerate the shrine,
Of sapient LOCKE, the world's free minded friend,
Who spurn'd the prince that claim'd a right divine,
And the false priest, who conscience strove to bend.

And, with his god-like spirit for thy guide,
While his firm statue seems the act to eye,
Kneel down and swear, "that neither force nor pride
Shall cause thee from his principles to fly.

But that, should Wrongs be felt and Factions spread,
Protecting Truth, thou'lt wisely onward press,
'Till radical Reform shall end the dread
Of wild Revolt, and peace the People bless."

And now—may all who on his valued page,
Shall fix their eye, or here admiring stand,
In Wisdom's walks seek glory, like the Sage,
Who gain'd this tribute from his grateful land!

O.

Ballycarry.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

LITERATURE has felt the effects of the war, from the interruption of the intercourse between us and the Continent. But as, in consequence of the present renewal of commercial intercourse with Holland, the foreign literary journals have arrived in England, we have, without loss of time, availed ourselves of the assistance of a gentleman in London, and now lay before our readers some literary intelligence from the Continent. Among which are the late proceedings of the French National Institute. We are also making arrangements for procuring further interesting literary assistance from England. We trust those exertions will convince our Readers of our resolution to render the Belfast Monthly Magazine deserving of the encouragement it has hitherto received, and stamp it with the character for originality, which we are desirous it should support.

THE celebrated Campe has published the first volume of his German Dictionary. It contains more than

one thousand 4to. pages, printed in two columns, and 20,735 articles, though it goes no further than the letter E. The second is to extend to L. Many, who are acquainted with the excellent Dictionary of Adelung, may think Mr. Campe has made a rash attempt; but impartial judges admit, that he has three advantages over his predecessor: 1st. Instead of confining himself, as Adelung did, to the dialect of Upper Saxony, Campe admits all the dialects of the Teutonic language, and the technical terms of all the arts: 2ndly. Adelung employed as authorities only authors older than himself. Campe has availed himself of the works of his contemporaries, among whom are Klopstock, Weiland, Goethe, Herder, Schiller, Voss, &c. 3dly. Campe has distinguished the use of words in the lofty and in the familiar style, which Adelung did not. It is to be regretted, however, that he has omitted every thing relative to etymology and synonimes; and that in his zeal for the purity of the German, while he is careful to banish all words borrowed from foreign languages, he has introduced many of his own manufacture, in which he is not always equally happy. Several of these have already afforded opportunities for the German critics to exercise their wit.

Mr. Rossman, a protestant, of Munster, has published, with the approbation of the Vicars-general of the diocese, eleven Devout Hymns for Catholics, and this singular performance has met with great success among the pious of that communion.

A German version of the New Testament has lately been published at Brunswick, for the use of Christians of every denomination. It is the work of two Benedictines, Charles and Leander Von Ess, and is considered by judicious critics as the best extant. Two editions are printed; one intended particularly for the Catholics, differing from the other only in having some additions from the Vulgate. Both have received the approbation of the divines of the respective persuasions. The two learned Benedictines are engaged in translating the Old Testament, on similar principles.

Lectures on the Napoleon Code of Jurisprudence have been opened in several German universities. Professor Olivarius, of Kiel, announced a course of lectures for the summer of 1807, in which he proposed to compare and comment upon the Danish, Roman, Jutland, Prussian, and Napoleon codes, and endeavour thence to deduce principles for a new code, adapted to the whole of the Danish monarchy.

Mr. Antony Szirmay has published at Pest, a political, Historical, and Typographical Description of the county of Ugocka, of which he is a native. It was printed at the expense of the governor. He had before given a similar description of the county of Zemplen.

Dicuili Liber de Mensurâ Orbis Terræ, has lately been published, for the first time, by C. A Walckenær, from two manuscripts in the Imperial Library at Paris. It is an octavo pamphlet of five sheets.

Dr. Krutmeyer has printed, at Stockholm, the Journal of Count Peter Brahe, Marshal of Sweden. It includes a period of thirty-six years, from 1618 to 1655; and as the author, living under Gustavus Adolphus and Queen Christiana, had a share in the principal political events of the times, it might have been very interesting, had he not restricted himself to a brief narrative of facts, without any attempt to develope their causes.

Two new Societies have lately been formed at Copenhagen, with the approbation of the government, one for promoting the Veterinary Art, the other for extending the knowledge of Danish Antiquities.

A new and improved edition of Muller's German and Danish Dictionary, is publishing in octavo. The first volume, containing fifty sheets, comprises only the first five letters of the alphabet.

On the 24th of May, 1807, the birth day of the celebrated Linnæus, a new Society was opened at Upsal, under the title of *Institutum Linnæanum*. After a speech by Professor Afzelius, a medal was delivered to each of the members, having on one side a bust of the Swedish naturalist, and on the other the following inscription: "*Natalium memoriæ sæculari, D.* XXIV *Maii* MDCCCVII, *Institutum Linnæanum Upsaliense.*"

We shall begin with the class of ancient history and literature.

Mr. Monger, persuaded that in the history of the ancients, nothing is altogether unimportant, and that the precise sense of words apparently of little consequence, is frequently connected with the history of their arts or customs, has paid particular attention to the word *creta*, which he finds to have been used in three different senses by some of the best authors: most commonly it is equivalent to *clay*, frequently to *marle*, and sometimes, though seldom, to *chalk*. The *marga* of the Latins was synonimous with our marle, and their *argilla* with our clay.

The same gentleman has analysed part of the handle of a spoon, found among various articles of a similar metal, supposed to have been used by the Roman soldiers, and found it to consist of tin alloyed with, between a third and fourth of lead. From this he proceeds to examine a passage in Pliny, lib. 34, chap. 17, where it is said that the Romans adulterated their pure tin, *stannum*, by adding a third of its weight of *æs candidum*, which made *plumbum album*. Mr. Monger considers this *æs candidum* as the mixture of copper, lead, tin, and zinc, called by the French *potin*. In a subsequent passage of the same chapter, Pliny mentions, as a property of the *plumbum album*, that when melted it would break through paper, rather by its weight apparently, than by its heat. Hence this seems to have been of the nature of Newton's fusible metal, and consequently the *æs candidum* was a mixture of lead and bismuth.

Another paper by Mr. Monger is on an ancient tomb discovered in 1778, on digging in a church-yard at Lyons. The epitaph begins *Memoriæ æternæ Exomnii Paterniani quondam Centurionis legionarii, &c.* The unusual epithet, *Legionarius*, Mr. M. supposes to have been added, to show that *Exominius Paternianus* was an officer in one of the Roman legions, and not of the auxiliaries. There is another particularity in this tomb. The inscription is in a tablet, and at each end of this tablet is an appendage, resembling a tenon, on each of which are two proper names in Greek characters, with the Greek word of salutation at meeting on one, and that used at parting on the other. A similar particularity occurs on two other tombstones found at Lyons. Mr. Monger supposes, that some of the Greek Christians of Asia, who first established Christianity at Lyons, had availed themselves of these tombs for the interment of their dead, and added the Greek inscription, without defacing the Latin, as those contained nothing repugnant to their own faith.

Mr. Petit Radel, who has formed a theory of his own, from the examination of various remains of ancient walls, finds himself in opposition to the learned Fréret, on the origin of Argos. Fréret ascribes its foundation to a colony from Egypt, led by Phoroneus, son of Inachus, and supposes the Greeks to have been indebted to the Egyptians for the first elements of the arts of social life. Mr. P. R. thinks, on the contrary, that the colony of Danaus, the third according to Fréret, was the first that came from Egypt into Europe, and that the Greeks had arts of their own before they knew any thing of the Egyptians. Having pointed out various inconsistencies, into which Fréret, and after him the author of Anacharsis, have fallen, and defended the veracity of Dionysius Halicarnassensis, he infers, that Inachus, the founder of Argos, was a Greek. The general inference drawn by Mr. P. R. from all his researches, is, that our historical hemisphere may be divided into two zones of antiquity very different from each other. One of these, which he terms Cyclopean, is formed according to the system of arts in Europe, namely, of vast blocks of stone, cut in regular polygons, and joined without cement, merely from the nice adaptation of the stones: the other, the Asiatic system consists in stones cut in rectangular parallelograms. Throughout Italy and Greece, wherever the two have been found together, the Cyclopean structure always forms the base.

Mr. Toulongeon considered the amphitheatres of the Romans chiefly with a view to their moral effects. The place called *Spoliarium*, where those gladiators, of whose recovery there was little hopes, were dispatched in

The following day was celebrated the dedication of a temple and greenhouse, erected in honour of Linnæus.

Weitsch, painter to the court of Berlin, has finished a striking likeness of Von Humboldt botanizing. He is in the midst of an American landscape, and surrounded by the instruments he used to employ. It is engraving by Freddhof.

Among the literary losses occasioned by the bombardment of Copenhagen are to be regretted the libraries of professors Rusbrigh, Wolf, Kierulf, and Woeldike. The first of these contained above 11000 volumes. Several printing offices too were destroyed; and in that of Breum was burned, the manuscripts of Olassen's Supplement to Ihre's Sueo-Gothic Glossary, printing at the expense of the Royal Academy, a loss not easy to be repaired.

Mr. Zoega, the learned Dane, who has resided many years at Rome, is employed on a description of all the Basso Relievoes existing in that ancient capital of the world, and its environs, capable of elucidating the history of the art, and the science of antiquities. It will appear in numbers containing six plates each, engraved by Piroli. The text is in Italian.

A Catalogue of the Sanskreet Manuscripts in the Imperial Library, with an account of the Contents of most of them, by Mr. Alexander Hamilton, member of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, &c. and L. Langles, member of the French Institute, Keeper of the Oriental manuscripts of the Imperial Library, &c. has appeared in Paris.

J. E. D. Bernardi has published a new edition, in 2 vols. 12mo. of his Cicero's six Books on a Commonwealth, or on the best kind of Government, restored by the help of fragments and other writings of the author. He has now given the Latin opposite the French translation, and has added two dissertations, the object of one of which is to prove, that a tract of Cicero, entitled de Gloria, was extant in the 16th, century.

Voss has published a new edition of his Louisa, which he has enlarged near a thousand lines.

A complete translation of the works of Beaumont and Fletcher into German, is publishing at Berlin.

Mr. Heuberger, editor of the Wesel Gazette, has compiled a Dictionary of all the neologisms current among the writers of newspapers and other periodical publications.

The Letters and Negotiations of Mr. Lawrence Peter van der Spiegel, Grand-pensioner of Holland, during the late war between the United Provinces and the French Republic, published at Amsterdam in 3 vols. 8vo. may be presumed to exhibit some important documents, if not mutilated, or interpolated.

Mr. Michael Korats Martiny, proposes to publish Memoirs of a Political and Literary History of Hungary, extracted from Manuscripts and scarce books, under the title of *Fragmenta Literaria Rerum Hungaricarum.* The first volume is to contain an account of various articles respecting the ancient classics in the Corvina library; Memoirs of the Literary History of Hungary, from Manuscripts; acts of the Jewish Council, assembled in the plain of Nagy-Ida, the 12th, of October, 1650, And an Abstract of "The present State of Hungary, and History of the Wars there, to this day." Printed at London, in 1683, for H. Reade.

A National Hungarian Museum is forming at Peft, under the patronage of the Archduke Palatine. Count Szechynei, the founder of the library, has given 20000 florins, or above 2000 guineas, toward it, and many other considerable sums have been subscribed.

A Political and Geographical History of Walachia, from the earliest period to the year 1774, has been published at Vienna, in 1 vol. 8vo. It is in modern Greek, and supposed to have been written about 1775, in the Walachian language, by some Priest or Nobleman.

The different classes of the French National Institute are obliged to make an annual report of their labours; and as the interruption of our intercourse with France has prevented our knowledge of what has been doing in that country, we presume our readers will be gratified by our giving an abridgment of these reports from the year 1807, which have just reached our hands, and we hope that in future we shall be enabled to give them with regularity, soon after they are published,

cold blood, the ferocity of the Romans, and their degradation, when young men of noble families fought in public for the amusement of the emperors, chiefly engaged his attention.

He also gave an account of an edition of Cæsar's Commentaries, which he is publishing previous to his new translation of this work.

Mr. Silvestre de Sacy had been appointed by the class to examine the archives of Genoa, in which a great number of Oriental MSS. were said to be preserved, but he appears to have found little worthy of notice of this kind He could discover only a Hebrew Bible, with a commentary in the same language; part of one in a roll, written for the use of some synagogue; two treaties in Arabic, with the Arabian sovereigns of the Balearic islands, about the end of the 12th century, a treaty in the Armenian language; and a Turkish passport. There were several treaties, however, in more or less barbarous Latin, calculated to throw some light on the establishments of the Genoese, along the shores of the Black Sea, and on the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean. Mr. de S. likewise examined some other archives, particularly that of the Bank of St. George.

Mr. Barbré du Bocaye read an abstract of an account of a hydrographic atlas in the library of Talleyrand, drawn in the 16th century. Mr. B. asserts, that the coasts of New Holland are laid down in it, and that they were discovered by the Portuguese, before the English or Dutch had any knowledge of them; though the discovery was lost to the Portuguese through the treachery of Don Michael de Sylva, bishop of Viseu, a favourite of the king (another French geographer who appears to have examined this atlas, contends, that the land to which Mr. B. alludes, is not New Holland; and his arguments show, that it is at least very questionable.)

Mr. Pougens, in a dissertation on the goddess Nehalennia, concludes, that she was a local divinity; and that she presided in Zealand over maritime commerce and public markets.

The history of the Croisades constituting a very important part of that of the middle ages, every thing relative to them merits attention. Mr. Brial has in consequence sought for information respecting the assembly held as Chartres on occasion of the croisade of Lewis the Young. This, which has been styled a parliament of the kingdom, and supposed by men of the highest reputation to have taken place in 1146, was not held till 1150. In 1146 and 1147 assemblies were held at Bourges, Vezelay, and Etampes, the object of which was, to make preparations for a croisade. In that of Chartres it was determined, not only to succour the Christians in the Holy Land, the common pretext of the croisaders, but to revenge on the Greek Emperors the disasters, that former Croisaders had experienced from their treacherous policy. It was in this assembly too, and not in 1146, that St. Bernard was chosen to be the head of a new croisade, which was to be undertaken at the expense of the clergy of France; the king and nobles, so lately returned from an expedition to the east, being too much exhausted both of men and money, to attempt another. Nothing was effected by this assembly however, the project being abandoned almost as soon as it was conceived.

In a Statistical and Historical Essay, Mr. Mentelle has traced the growth of the house of Austria, and the loss it has experienced, from the exaltation of Rodolphus of Hapsburgh to the treaty of Austerlitz. According to him the Austrian territories, which at the beginning of the reign of Francis II. included 13994 German miles, square, were reduced by that treaty to 10738, or 29842 French leagues, containing a population of 22,004,800 persons, and producing a revenue of 103 or 104 millions of florins (about 12 millions sterling.)

Mr. Dupont de Nemour read some chapters of a History of the English Finances. He finds a great advantage in drawing the revenue from the land, as it furnishes the public with the supplies at once, at a time when the necessity of them is obvious to every one, and leaving private property unaffected; while, if the supply have been sufficient, it renders all other taxes unnecessary. He likewise thinks it more advisable to take the revenue from

the clear income arising from the land, than for government to have a share of the land itself, as was the case in Egypt, or a part of the produce, as practised by the Chinese and Hebrews.

One object of the labours of the class was to produce designs for medals, to commemorate the grand events of the times. Two opposite opinions have arisen on this point. Some of the members are for exhibiting these in a figurative or emblematic manner, conformably to the principles generally admitted by artists, without any regard to times, places, or persons. Mr. Dupont, who is of the opposite opinion, has exhibited his reasons in two papers. He contends, that they should be completely historical, and that they should convey to all ages an accurate idea of the event, and of the time and place. The inscriptions therefore should be in French; and all the accessories, as well as the costume, should be faithful records of our arts, sciences and manners. Thus the ancients did, and we, while we blindly copy them, without adopting their principles, stick to the dead letter, and neglect the spirit of their practice. In his second paper Mr. Dupont, applies this theory to some of the medals proposed.

The class not adopting the ideas of Mr. Dupont, Mr. Quatremère de Quincy has written a long paper in defence of the opposite theory.

Many other papers, the Reporter, Mr. Ginguené, passes over with barely mentioning them,: as a Geographical and Historical Memoir on the Island of Salamis, by Mr la Porte-du-Theil, intended as part of a larger work: an Account of the Tomb of Mausolus, by Mr. de Sainte-Croix, likewise a Fragment: Observations on the Zodiac of Dendera, by Dupuis, printed separately, and New Explanations of the Chronological and Mythological Zodiac, by the same: an Inquiry into the Origin, History, and Literary Labours of the Mantchou Tartars, by Mr. Langles, intended for separate publication: and a General Introduction to the first part of a History of Modern Literature, which Mr. Ginguené is preparing to publish.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Advice and Directions to Hackney Coachmen, including some Practical Hints to Drivers in general, together with incidental allusions to several other elevated Characters, 12*mo. p.p.* 53 *Dublin : Martin*, 1809, *price* 1*s.* 8*d.*

MANY attempts have been made to imitate Swift's popular pamphlet of advice to Servants, and some of them not without success. Among others we remember one addressed to Soldiers, which, though written by a person who had never been in a military capacity, when read to a superannuated veteran, had such an effect on him that he was highly delighted, and cried out "this fellow knows us as well as ourselves." Were we to judge in the same manner of the present production, we would be strongly induced to think that the author was in the habit of familiar intercourse with the class that he addresses. It has some wit, chiefly of that broad kind, for which the lower classes in this country are so famous, a great deal of cant collected chiefly from the slang of hackney drivers, and so far it deserves credit, as these are necessary to mark the character of an Irish coachman, but it is in several places very gross, and in one or two almost bordering on the obscene.

Yet it may not be without its use. Swift's intention was to correct errors by exposing them. He wished either to direct the servant to what he ought to do by telling him the contrary ironically, or to put the employers on their guard by publishing those little frauds and knaveries, which though some of them are too dull, and and others too negligent to detect, can be easily seen through, by such as have been put on their guard. Some of the tricks of hackney-drivers are here exposed in the same way;

and as most of these are played off on us country bumpkins, who are not *up to the town*, a few hints might not be without their use to us, when travelling in Dublin, were they told in a manner that did not occasionally excite our disgust. For our part, we freely confess that we are decided enemies to such books as must be crammed into our pockets whenever our wives or daughters turn the handle of the door, and are rather ill inclined towards those in which when reading to a female audience, we come unexpectedly to a full stop, and are obliged to turn over a page or two, and get ourselves out of the scrape as well as we can, with "well let's see what comes next."

The greediness of hackney coachmen is their most remarkable quality and of course most dwelt upon here, it is so proverbial, that there is a story current of two gentlemen, one of whom having said that it was impossible to satisfy them, the other proposed for a bet to prove the contrary. He accordingly took a coach off the stand, and having driven one or two streets, gave the driver a guinea. The fellow looked at it, and instead of offering to give change, or even to put it in his pocket and thank his employer, followed him with his hat in his hand; "Please your honour, wont you allow me something to drink?"

Their tricks to extort an extra tenpenny, are very humorously described.

"When you wait upon a gentleman who happens to be in a violent hurry to his dinner where he expects to be too late; if by the way of being particularly clever, and to prevent any *scrimmage* with you in his friend's hall, he pays you a shabby fare in his own; grumble and abuse as much and as long as you can with safety to yourself; always keeping the fear of God and the Alderman before your eyes on such occasions. But if the fellow is hard hearted, and wont listen to reason, take the rascal at least half a mile round, and drive him *by act of parliament*; that is to say at the rate of two miles and a half an hour. First mistake the street, and then the house; when you are set right, give half a dozen of the loudest and genteelest hackneyman's *whoops* in driving up to the door, so that the company who are done their dinner may hear you distinctly, and not mistake the vulgar gingle of a *jowlt*, for the fashionable rattle of a gentleman's chariot. If it rains, stop obliquely in the gutter, and as far from the door as you decently can, slap down your whip on the roof of the coach with as loud a report as comes from the mouth of a six-pounder; alight and knock at the door as if the knocker slipt out of your fingers; open your coach, and let down your step with as much harmony, as if you were emptying a cart load of paving stones, follow your man into the hall and half way into the dinner parlour, dunning his honour all the while for an extra tenpenny for your expedition. If his pride or his passion gets the better of him, and he gives you a bang that knocks a parcel of your teeth down your throat, I pronounce you a lucky dog: your fortune is made in a crack. Prosecute the paltry rascal for an assault, tip the footman of the house share of a pot and he will be your witness, vociferate in the hall till the gentleman of the house sends you some silver to get rid of you; then mount your box, denouncing terrible vengeance, and drive off, roaring as loud as if every bone in your carcass was broke—"

It is not to be expected that a writer of this stamp will confine his whip to the beasts he is driving, and not give a lash *en passant*, to what ever lies in his way. Among others we find a severe cut at a body well known and much spoken of (though not always in the most lavish terms of approbation) in Dublin.

"Never demand your fare, my lads, from any of their worships, the police magistrates in Clarendon-street. All is not lost, let me tell you, that a friend gets, and an acquaintance at court may be often useful to a hackney coachman in adversity."

Another hint of the same nature deserves a little more consideration, as we are all more or less concerned in it, and it were well, if it were thought upon by those against whom it is levelled. It is well known that by an old rule in the Dublin col-

lege the gates are locked every night at a quarter after twelve precisely, after which hour none of the students who may have transgressed the proper time for retiring home, are permitted to enter until five the next morning, during which time, they are left to shift for themselves. It is needless to add that there are in so large a city, many convenient houses, where young men who have plenty of money, or in default of that, valuable articles of dress, may be accommodated with a night's lodging; that the reception they meet with is such as seldom fails to induce them to renew the visit, whatever aversion they may have conceived against such places, from former report, and that at such late hours persons are to be found whose sole employment is to allure young men thus circumstanced into such receptacles.

"At an advanced hour of the night, and long after common working hours, an industrious hackneymen may let lodgings to very considerable advantage. The first floor of a hackney-coach, though unfurnished, often proves very acceptable quarters, to small families that can find no better accommodation, and to idle college boys, who are very wisely locked out of their chambers by the monks of trinity, for the purpose of improving their morals."

It is worthy of remark that these monks of trinity, the Professors, or as they are styled in that seminary, the fellows of the college, not having the same regard to the improvement of their own morals, are admissible at all hours, this however is a privilege seldom taken advantage of, as most of them have wives and families in the city, where they reside, and leave the interior of the college to take care of itself.

There is one part of this pamphlet peculiarly exceptionable and meriting the strongest reprobation as it displays a licentiousness of the press, not only contrary to its true liberty but subversive of it, and which like all other political abuses of the same nature must tend to the destruction of that liberty of which it makes a bad use, we mean the custom of dragging before the public, private characters, or even the private life of public characters, in which the public has no concern and therefore no right to inspect. This custom, we believe was first brought into vogue, by a certain ill-natured, though witty pamphlet, called "Familiar Epistles, &c." which was written for a local purpose in Dublin, but is now well known through all parts of the kingdom. We name it not now to deprecate the main intention of the writer; this was good; the Dublin stage had fallen into a most contemptible state of insipidity, and it required the strongest, and most active remedies to rouse it from its lethargy. If therefore the stage is to be considered as one of the engines for improving the public manners, such an attempt to bring it into action is praise-worthy. Neither do we wish to depreciate its merit, which is now established by one of the strongest proofs, that of its being read and approved of by those who never saw the persons introduced into it, and are slightly, if at all acquainted with most of the circumstances alluded to; but we blame the introduction of private anecdote, as faulty in itself as an arbitrary exertion of power which no writer ought to exert. In the "Familiar Epistles" it was but slight and incidental, but being sanctioned by the merit and success of the other parts, it gave a handle to others, who possessed his spleen, without his abilities. They soon seized upon it, and by imitating the only part they were capable of imitating, gave their insipid productions a degree of temporary vogue, depending on the encouragement of the worst passions, that has excited a succession of writers of the same stamp. Every writer of honour, every reader of candour or feeling, or even common honesty, every man who is averse to have his little weaknesses or defects, or even personal deformities exposed, ought to set his face against such an outrage against the private rights of individuals. In the present publication this principle is professed in the title page, by the expression of "incidental allusions to several elevated characters." It is thrown out as a lure for purchasers, which proves that the evil has made some progress. Yet

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here it has not even the excuse of doing evil that good may come from it, of acting the part of an intellectual physician, by publishing accounts of the diseases of individuals for the public benefit, for when we look into the work itself for these elevated characters who are ushered in with such verbose pomp, nothing is to be found but a very frigid witticism on the *length of Ponsonby's hose*, and on the recorder of Dublin, who, we are told, "piques himself upon the peculiar beauty of his countenance."—In another part, indeed, we meet with Lady Asgill, and a person styled "the Major of all the Majors," by whom we suppose is meant Charles Henry Sirr, the thief-taker. They may perhaps be public characters, but if they are looked upon as *elevated* characters in Dublin, we can only say that the difference of one degree of latitude makes a very great change in the signification of a word.

We have dwelt at some length on an insignificant production; if indeed any production can be called by such a name, which may be the cause of much good or harm; a trifle such as this will fall into the hands of many whose ideas will unavoidably receive some bias from the perusal; and it is therefore our wish to have the press, the Irish press so immaculate that nothing can meet the eye of the meanest, the lowest of our countrymen, that may not have a tendency to improve their hearts. An inspection of penny ballads, would not be without its use. Q.

The Irish Chieftain and his Family. By Theodore Melville, 4 vols. 12mo. p.p. 703. London, 1809. Price, 20s.

THE Reader who forms the least expectations on opening these volumes, will be least disappointed on closing them.

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subjected to its baleful influence it first paralyses the wholesome energies implanted by nature, then poisons the source of all honourable sentiment and feeling, and having sufficiently degraded its victim, at length outraged humanity rebels and tardy vengeance recoils on the authors of so much evil.

Were the authors of the mischief only to suffer, we might be willing to leave things to their natural course; but in great political convulsions, the innocent being the more numerous class are generally in that proportion the greater sufferers, and their efforts at relief often serve only to aggravate and prolong their calamity. It becomes then the duty of every *real* friend of social order to rouse the attention of the community to what is interesting to all, to endeavour to fix society on a firm foundation, and see that it contributes more to individual happiness than that state of nature enjoyed by the wild uncultivated tribes of Africa and America. France ought to be an effectual warning to all governments, as it is an awful example to all bad ones. The revolution of 1688, in our own country was not half so impressive; that might be considered as the natural impatience of a people tolerably accustomed to the blessings of freedom, at seeing before their eyes the ignominious fetters of tyranny forged for their subjugation. A people used to controul their kings, might easily be supposed willing on an emergency to get rid of a bad one; but for a nation immersed in slavery, as the body of the French were, by whom the revolution was accomplished, for such a one to rise as if by inspiration, assert their rights and avenge their wrongs; this is a spectacle for statesmen to contemplate; this shows that the cord if stretched too tight will snap at last. The success of the french on the Continent has been less owing to the energy infused by the revolution, than to the folly of the Continental governments, but we need not say more of those who would hazard the safety and independence of their native land by clinging to abuses by which they throve, and draining the heart's blood from an ill governed and discontented country. We may withdraw a while from scenes of such infatuation and weakness, and without confining ourselves by local views, consider the path which a wise people would pursue under certain circumstances.

Suppose a nation long accustomed to much civil and political freedom, enjoying many privileges, some founded on immemorial usage, and others on written records agreed to by the different parties in the state, empowered for that purpose, and all these together forming what is called the constitution of the country. That this written and unwritten constitution is expressly allowed to be the birth-right of all, is held up to each individual as the most valuable inheritance, which he ought to esteem above all other enjoyments and the only safeguard and guarantee of them all. That it is committed in trust to a body of men to be managed for the behoof of the great mass of the people, by the free suffrage of whom the constitution supposes the former to be chosen. That the people are attached to this order of things, have made extraordinary sacrifices for its support, and would hazard their lives to defend it from foreign aggression.

Should a people so circumstanced begin at length to perceive that the body to whom the constitution is entrusted, and to whom is committed the charge of watching over their immediate interests, is not chosen as the constitution intends; is not their real representative, and does not regulate its conduct by the clearly expressed national opinion; that many flagrant abuses take place in the management of their affairs, which the constitution endeavoured to prevent; and that the constitution has not provided the only adequate remedy for these grievances, by prescribing *how* the representative body shall be made the true organ of the People's will. Should this knowledge become general in the nation, and especially from the recent discovery of certain untoward events, make them discontented with the present administration of the constitution, and urgently desirous that at least what is called the popular Branch of the constitutional Tree may be freed from the influence of the other orders and transferred to them

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

EXTRAORDINARY emergencies usually call forth extraordinary exertions; and in dangerous and difficult times the human character assumes a variety, boldness, and decision which fits it for encountering obstacles and meeting the crisis with effect. Examples of this are frequent in history; but we, in these days, have such demonstration of it as the page of history cannot furnish. A revolution of unexampled magnitude, and attended with stupendous consequences has taken place before our eyes; and a nation deemed incapable of great exertions, or of the perseverance necessary to crown meritorious efforts with success, has, by a change of circumstances, become the most prominent object on the face of the globe.

Arbitrary power long continued, and formed into a regular system in France, seemed to affect the physical qualities of the people; and the notorious and avowed corruption pervading every department of the government, had a pernicious influence on their moral principle. This was an unnatural state of society, and the disorder having reached its height, a powerful re-action of the constitution burst asunder all the social relations, and expelled the evil rooted in the core. This is the natural tendency of despotism: in those

for their proper use and benefit.—In such a situation what should be the conduct of a wise government, even without any reference to external circumstances, or the present alarming state of the world? In such a country with a high sense of political liberty, and smarting under an extreme pressure of taxation, would it be prudent to make a general stand against "popular encroachment," and crush by penal statutes that spirit of inquiry which now pervades the nation.

We think this is the fatal policy which has led to the almost total overthrow of the Continental powers; by contemning and opposing the voice of the people, some of them were absolutely destroyed, and by refusing to ameliorate the condition of their subjects, others have found them passive and insensible in the hour of danger. It cannot be so in the country we have contemplated; even should government be unwilling to yield up the undue influence it has acquired, the example of former times will intrude and make the voice of reason be heard; and conciliatory measures promptly pursued, will drown the voice of discontent and faction. It is not enough that the constitution of the government be beautiful in theory, it must be felt, must come to the mass of the people in a 'tangible shape,' in order to gain their affections, and be supported by them with energy. The people are wise enough now to know that government is a thing contrived for their use, and that whenever it lessens their comforts, curtails their privileges, or refuses minute attention to their complaints, it ceases to be legitimate, and loses all claim to their veneration and regard. As they are now awaking from a slumber that might have been fatal, let them publicly and freely make known the object they are in pursuit of, and the means by which they would desire to enjoy it; it is better that opinions be freely expressed, than silence imposed on a nation till it is urged into dangerous excess. It is time for these countries to assert their right to the enjoyment of the constitution in its purity; we believe it to be the best in the world, and better adapted to mankind, *as they are* than any other; but in the lapse of time, like all other human establishments, it has contracted imperfections, which spoil its beauty, and impair its power to answer the purpose of its institution—*the happiness of those embodied under its protection.* A periodical renovation of it would seem necessary to recall men's attention to first principles; and it might be well, if, after the revolution of each half century at most, some mode were adopted of giving it a solemn revision, corresponding with the importance of the object, by an extra-deputation of persons appointed for that particular purpose.

We conceive that the duty we owe society, calls upon us to turn the attention of our fellow-citizens to the crisis in which they are placed: the present times are fertile in great political changes: we stand in a comparatively enviable situation, and the form of our government is admirable; but reduced to practice—it wants the vigour of youth and the energy of virtue: it wants diffusion through all classes of the people, in order to insure *their* happiness, and render *it* stable as the soil they inhabit. Then, while time and opportunity still continues, as they value the blessings of freedom themselves, and would wish to transmit them unimpaired to their posterity, let them become the artificers of their own destiny: Let them consider the present eventful period till they acquire a character that shall rise superior to difficulties, and find security in its own resources; and by a steady perseverance in temperate measures, let them endeavour, either to force the interested part of the community to a seasonable acquiescence with the wishes of the whole; or where the letter of the constitution is silent, yet in strict conformity with its spirit, to devise means to correct and prevent the recurrence of abuses which destroy the public morals, and sap the foundations of national safety.

Since our last month's notice, the public attention, as to foreign affairs, has been chiefly directed to the French and Austrian armies. These immense engines of human destruction are wielded by the contending Emperors with disproportioned power, and unequal skill; and this we fear it has not been attempted to equalize during the interval of *actual* hostility, by

extending advantages to the subjects of the weaker country, which would have secured their effectual assistance now, when become essentially necessary. Even when an unexpected check was given to the French arms—which, like the famous Bantry-bay expedition to our own country, was accomplished more by the elements than by valour or the wisdom of councils. We hear of no exultation, no attempt of the people to rise and help to expel their invaders; and in the countries already traversed by the victorious army, whenever the regular force is beaten, taken, or expelled, they seem so entirely subdued that the troops are drawn away, as if there were no apprehension of danger from them.

The three days' interruption that Bonaparte experienced at Vienna, and the breaking down of the bridge over the Danube, on the retreat of the Austrians was favourable to their cause. The Archduke Charles made use of the time from the 12th to the 20th of May, in collecting the scattered divisions of his army, and occupying a favourable position on the left bank. The French head-quarters at this time were at Ebersdorff, a town a few leagues to the south-east of Vienna, where the river is intersected by two islands, the larger, In der Loban, nearer to the left, or north bank. Here, having constructed three bridges over as many arms into which the river is divided by the islands, the French began to pass on the night of the 20th of May, and occupied two villages, Essling and Asperne, on the north bank. About noon the next day, the 21st, the Archduke, with 90,000 men and 200 pieces of cannon, according to the French accounts, attacked the enemy, consisting, by the Austrian bulletins, of 80,000 men, and a most obstinate engagement ensued, and continued, until night separated the combatants. The battle was renewed, with sanguinary violence on the morning of the 22d. The French and Austrians, each claim the superiority on these two days; and there may now appear a difficulty in deciding where victory would have remained; but an accident beyond the reach of human prudence or calculation, left the hard-earned fruits entirely with the Austrians. A sudden swelling of the Danube, which generally takes place later in the season, carried away two of the bridges which had been constructed with so much labour, and cut off the French from receiving any more supplies either of men or ammunition, from the right or south side, and leaving the army engaged with the Austrians only a communication with the island of In der Loban, by the bridge which had escaped. In this most critical situation, Bonaparte ordered his army to retreat and concentrate itself, and at night it passed over into the island of In der Loban, still having a communication with the left bank, by keeping possession of the Tete du Pont.

We may remark here on the exultation manifested at this check given to the French arms, and the weak conclusions drawn from it, as if Bonaparte were now deprived of the power to commit farther mischief. We might, indeed rejoice were the inordinate ambition of this man restrained, were the armies of the Emperor Francis able to repel the inroads of his legions, or were the prostrate dynasties of Europe at length roused from their degradation, and prepared to oppose his power, with the only effective arms, the arms of JUSTICE and FREEDOM. In this case the effusion of human blood, and the increase of human misery might be restrained, and society in general reap some advantage; but unless some of these consequences are likely to ensue, we need not exult, although we must feel pleased that the destruction of our ally is interrupted, and that there is a probability of some better terms being procured by him on that account. As to ourselves, fourteen millions of people surrounded by a better rampart than the Danube, need neither exult nor despond at the defeats or successes of Bonaparte; a good government, union and comfort at home would render us secure from him, were all the rest of Europe lying under his feet. We apprehend, however, that the conclusions drawn from Bonaparte's retreat across the Danube, and the unexpected success of the Archduke, are wholly unwarranted by these events. In the battles of the 21st and 22d, if the advantage had not been with the French, how could they afterwards have retreated so orderly, by a

single bridge, into the island of In der Loban? and had the Archduke beat them so completely as he represents in his bulletins, why did he not continue the action until their ammunition was expended, and while they were cut off from a supply, by a decisive effort, annihilate this army, which would undoubtedly have compelled Bonaparte to a precipitate retreat from the Austrian dominions? On these accounts, we conceive Bonaparte to be equally formidable as when he advanced to Vienna. His army has sustained considerable loss 1,100 killed, and 3,000 wounded by his own statement, and many superior officers, among whom are three Generals and Marshal Lasnes (Duke of Montebello) who died a few days after the action of the 22d; but it is probable the loss of the Austrians is not inferior; and as the army of Italy formed a junction with him on the 26th of May, at Bruck, within two or three days' march of Vienna, and Bernadotte is advancing on the north of the Danube, with a large reinforcement, besides the numerous bodies of troops ordered from the Tyrol, which seems now perfectly tranquillized, we may shortly expect to hear of some of those immense operations which astonish the world after his apparent temporary suspension.

The Archduke John, who commanded the Austrians in Italy must have retired far from that country, although we are unacquainted with the details as the Italian army had advanced as far as Gratz in Carinthia, and to Bruck, on the road to Vienna; and the Duke of Ragusa (Marmont) was marching from Dalmatia, with his division to form a junction with it.

In Poland the Archduke Ferdinand, after the capture of Warsaw, proceeded along the Vistula, took Thorn, and was going on towards Dantzic; but we are informed that he has now commenced his retreat to Germany.

The Russian declaration of war against Austria, bears date Petersburgh the 5th of May, and we hear of her troops advancing to the Austrian frontier: should Bonaparte's situation appear at all hazardous, we doubt not but all the means of this mighty empire would be employed for his support.

Of Turkey we know nothing: neither can the movements of that chaotic mass possess any interest compared with the present critical state of the other parts of Europe.

It is with some concern that we advert to the difficulties in which Sweden finds herself placed. The Emperor of Russia in respect to her, has occupied the ground we took for refusing to treat of peace with France in the early periods of the revolution. Instability of the government, social order, and revolutionary example, are profaned in *his* mouth, and made the infamous pretexts for refusing their proffered friendship, and for endeavouring, with his disproportioned force, to overwhelm that unfortunate country. Now is the time for the interposition of England: let her now send a portion of that fleet and army which are wasting their strength in Portugal, for an object which we must lose, to assist the Swedes in conquering peace, and defending that constitution and king, which they themselves have chosen.

In Portugal, Sir Arthur Wellesly, after the re-capture of Oporto, and defeating the rear of Soult's corps, followed up his success with all his characteristic rapidity; but after a severe fatiguing pursuit through a difficult country, he was obliged to return without having overtaken that officer. The French, we understand are now entirely out of Portugal: of their operations in Spain we know little with certainty, except that the province of Asturias was very unexpectedly attacked by them sometime ago, when they were not thought to be in force in that neighbourhood; Oviedo, the capital, taken, from whence Romana and the bishop with difficulty effected their escape; the latter having arrived in England; and the whole province seems to be now in possession of the French. It must give pleasure to the friends of liberty to learn, that there is now under the consideration of the Supreme Junta, at Seville, a *truly* patriotic proclamation to the Spanish people, and a plan for the formation of a National Constitution, for the most part on liberal principles, and providing for individual protection and an equal distribution of law and justice to the community, by a proper repre-

sentation of the people in the Cortez, or general estates of the kingdom. This, if carried into effect, may yet do some good; although we fear it is too late to revive the flame of patriotism, which, if ever really kindled, is, by injudicious measures, misfortunes, and disappointment, now nearly extinguished.

Our relations with America, instead of becoming more simple and defined, seem every day to be getting more perplexed and intricate. As soon as we are gratified by hearing that our minister in America had come to such an understanding, and made such arrangements with that government as promised a speedy termination to all our disputes, we are officially informed by our ministry at home that he had exceeded his powers, and acted in direct opposition to his instructions. What the consequence of this vacillation in our councils may be, we cannot tell, but we fear that the disgust and disappointment in America will be in proportion to the almost extravagant joy manifested by them at the supposed amicable termination of our differences.

We remember, before the unfortunate commencement of hostilities with France, in 1793, how anxious that people were to preserve peace with England, how highly they praised and esteemed Englishmen, and how their love for this country seemed really to have become a national feeling—arising probably from the recent change in their circumstances; and we all now know that the prevalence of evil councils have accomplished as complete a revolution in this respect, as ever took place in the sentiments and feelings of any people. We fervently hope that the present protracted negociations with America may end differently; but the prevailing sentiments of administration and their unknown diplomatic abilities, give very considerable ground for apprehension.

ENGLAND.

However the bloody contests on the Continent may terminate, whether the old governments have yet so much of the spirit of vitality remaining, as to survive the present crisis, or whether they succumb to the rising fortunes of the new dynasty, which the true lovers of liberty cannot but wish to fall in its turn ere long, to make room for a better order of things than the present military despotism; we have still more important objects, and of much nearer interest to us, to engage our attention in our domestic struggles, to settle our liberties on a securer basis.

During the dynasty of the Stuarts, prerogative was unblushingly avowed. James the first laid the foundation for the misfortunes of his family, in his favourite doctrine of "the right divine of kings to govern wrong." His son Charles, the first, was a proficient in this school, and to the favourite system of king-craft added the vice of hypocrisy. Charles the second uninstructed by misfortunes, was, after his restoration, profligate in private life, and tyrannical in his maxims and manner of government, and his ill-fated successor, the imbecile James, justly forfeited his crown by his adherence to the doctrines and practice of the family.

In succeeding reigns prerogative gradually gave place to the insinuating vices of *corruption*, till at length Sir Robert Walpole digested this new plan of governing into a system, and with the effrontery of a vicious heart, avowed, "that every man had his price." We hesitate not to declare that this assertion is untrue, and a libel against human nature, and yet we must acknowledge with sorrow, that too many have, as far as regarded themselves, justified the truth of this misanthropic maxim. Corruption is the enemy whom we have to encounter, whose maturity of years and strength has become truly formidable, and whose inroads on the constitution, during the last forty or fifty years, have been great and alarming.

It is consolatory, however, to the friends of peace and stability, to find that a considerable degree of public spirit is lately revived in England; for the *Constitution improved*, affords the best security against foreign enemies, as well as against the no less dangerous enemies, the abbetors of corruption at home, and gives the most secure basis for permanent tranquillity. The force of popular feeling has an evident effect on the house of commons, and public censure to a certain degree exerts a salutary corrective influence within their walls. It must be allowed that some assert corruption is necessary to the existence

of government in whatever hands, and tells us "'tis our charter;" Perceval concedes by inches, and exerts all his sophistry and special pleading to fritter away, and undo his concessions; yet still if we view the progress of affairs during the present session, the influence of the people has considerably encreased. At the commencement of the session, the haughty language of defiance and disdain was hurled against the intrepid Wardle, and the small band of reformers who supported him. Instructed by their defeat, the ministry became more cautious, and avoided meeting with any more tangible instances of corruption: they resisted general inquiry, and loudly proclaimed their innocence; but when afterwards challenged to particular instances in the persons of some of the chief members of administration, they shrunk back and wished for no more examinations at the bar. They have assumed a lower tone, but show no disposition to remove the radical existence of evils, of which they cannot deny the existence.

In London and Edinburgh the friends to the old system have celebrated the birth-day of Pitt, by public dinners. This may be considered as a plan to counteract the public meetings in favour of reform, and as a rallying point for the scattered forces of ministers and their expectants. Placemen and pensioners filled the tables, and with the enthusiasm of three times three, drank success to the system, whence they had their gains; but the people, groaning under the weight of taxation, had no inducements to sympathize in their mirth. They attempted to revive the old watch-words against liberty, and with entire consistency adopted the ominous name of Pitt as their signal. Yet who that dispassionately considers the present state of Europe, the enormous weight of taxation, and the abridgement of liberty in the British isles, all justly referrable to his counsels, or the counsels of those who secretly and behind the curtain, directed him, can wish for a continuation of that system, which has in its effects proved so fatal, and to which in his keen sensations of regret in the eminent failure of it, he himself probably fell a victim?

In the struggle between reform and corruption, if the people had directed their attention exclusively against the present ministry, it is probable they must have retired from place; and their opponents appeared at one time to anticipate their triumph: but now according to the whining speech of Mr. Tierney, they are displeased at the want of confidence justly shown towards them. The resolutions from Bristol, for which see the Official Documents, page 478, boldly declare that the co-operation of men interested in the continuance of corruption is neither looked for nor desired. Among the opposition, not a few enjoy sinecure places, and they all probably wish again to taste the sweets of office, without any abridgement of the means of gratifying their craving after the emoluments of place. To neither of the old parties can the people look with confidence for the removal of abuses.

Mr. Whitbread's motion to pledge parliament to take up early in the next session, the consideration of limiting the number of placemen, and to exclude pensioners from sitting in the house of commons, as also a motion to abridge the number of sinecures, were both negatived.

The bill introduced by Mr. Curwen has passed through the house of commons. At its first introduction it did not appear to possess sufficient strength or energy to accomplish its title, to prevent the sale of seats in parliament; but its inefficacy has been still further increased by the insiduous conduct of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has succeeded to mould it to his own views; and still farther than in the original bill, to give a monopoly of boroughs to the treasury. He has contrived to guard against conviction, by requiring that a place should be *expressly* given, for the purpose of procuring a vote, so that no one who is not a bungler, or who is not clumsey-fingered in his practice of bribing, is in danger of suffering under the penalties of this accommodating and latitudinary bill. So long as offices are, by connivance, permitted to be given instead of money, the evil intended to be prevented by the original bill, must be increased, because a man who purchases his seat with his own money may be independent, while the retainers of the treasury must

necessarily have an *incubus* operating on them, so as to injure their independence. The oath to be taken by the *elected* against having practised bribery is also removed, though while the *elector* is forced to swear, it would be difficult to show why, a fortiori, the elected should be exempted from the exculpation of an oath against bribery. Oaths, however, are easily evaded, and they seldom operate to check villiany. Heavy penalties easily recoverable, would have probably produced the most effectual check against the practice of purchasing seats, which the speaker of the house of commons, in an energetic speech, pronounced to be a violation of the constitution. But to stop the trade of corruption, or to restore the constitution, is seldom the aim of men hackneyed in the artifices of governing.

Lord Folkstone, with great propriety, moved that the title of the bill should be, "A bill for the more effectually preventing the sale of seats in parliament for money, and for promoting the monopoly thereof to the treasury, by means of patronage." But although his motion was negatived, yet during the progress of the bill through the house of lords, where it finally passed, it was supported by the lords in administration, and the Earl of Liverpool especially defended it, because it was a measure not connected with the reform of parliament.

Sir Francis Burdett, after a long speech, in which he showed that the present system of rotten boroughs, was equally prejudicial to the prerogative of the king, and the rights of the people, and only advantageous to a small portion of the aristocracy, the borough-mongers, to prevent any longer a misrepresentation of his opinions on the subject, proceeded to detail his plan, for a more equal representation of the people, and shortening the duration of parliaments, and concluded with moving a resolution, that the house would early in next session proceed to consider the state of the representation. This reasonable proposal was supported by the small minority of 15, among whom we only recognize one Irishman, Mr. Hutchinson.

In taking a view of the parliamentary proceedings of this month, we cannot omit to notice the fate of a bill introduced by Lord Erskine to prevent cruelty to animals. It passed through the house of Lords, and was finally rejected before the third reading in the commons. It was acknowledged by the supporters of the bill to be the commencement of a new era in legislation, but the idea was scouted by the class of obscurants, or bedarkners, and anti-reformists. Animals have their rights, and as yet, cruelty towards them is only punished from a reference to the interest of the owners, without consideration of the wanton cruelties inflicted on them through inhumanity and caprice. There was a consistency, however, in the opposition of the enemies of reform, to this *measure of improvement*. Windham who some years ago, successfully opposed a bill to prevent the barbarous and brutalizing practice of bull-baiting, lest it should diminish the courage (he should have more appropriately termed it ferocity) of the English, was steady to his principles on this occasion, and moved that the third reading of the bill should be deferred for three months. Such is the progress of civilization in the first decennium of the 19th century.

Approaching now to the close of the parliamentary campaign, we must again advert to the respectable champion against corruption, G. Lloyd Wardle, to whose exertions, accompanied with so much coolness and moderation we are so highly indebted, and who by his unveiling the atrocities connected with the war department, gave the first impetus to the desire for reform. It is curious to hear with what calumnies he is assailed by the friends of corruption: and if unblushing impudence were not so common as not to excite surprize, it would be not without astonishment, that we hear the advocates for a vigour beyond the law, and even men who themselves were among the foremost in committing acts of outrage, bring forward an accusation against him for his conduct in Ireland, when with his regiment, the Ancient Britons, in the memorable years of 1797 and 1798. It is not our intention to be the apologists for their outrages, and if any of his individual acts were improper, we shall not attempt to palliate them; though for the acts com-

mitted by his troop under the authority of magistrates, even though in his presence, we find some excuse from the temper of the times, and his liability to be led astray by misrepresentation, of a country with which he was unacquainted, and his being in a situation, in which he was particularly exposed to the imbibing of prejudices. We have heard no well authenticated instance of any act of cruelty committed by him, but even if such should be substantiated, we should grieve at the fallible nature of man, but should not be disposed on that account to reject him, or his present services; nor do we ask the aid of men, who were themselves actors in similar tragedies, to be the first to throw blame on him, who, even if formerly led astray in the mistaken fervor of youthful zeal is now in his riper years, atoning for the errors of his youth. We are therefore willingly inclined to accept his present well-directed endeavours. Being frequently urged by his opponents, he at length came forward with his plan for saving many millions to the state; if the public purse were well taken care of by the house of commons, who, if truly the representatives of the people, and sympathizing with them, would be the watchful guardians of it. In the course of his speech he pointed out many abuses in the different departments, and concluded with motions for papers further to elucidate his assertions.* Ministers promised to bring forward such accounts as he wanted, as far they could at the beginning of the next session, and if they were not satisfactory, it was understood he might then move for further returns. We cherish the hope that he will overcome all opposition to his laudable exertions in detecting abuses, and that next session we shall behold him renewing his labours with unabated ardour, cheered by the approbation of the thinking and virtuous part of the community.

According to a resolution of the house of Commons, the amount of the national debt of Great Britain is stated to be 567 millions!

On the 21st, parliament was prorogued by commission. The most prominent part of the speech as connected with our domestic politics, is an exhortation, "to inculcate both by instruction and example, a spirit of attachment to the established laws, and the happy constitution of these countries."

From the manner of mentioning the subject, we may perceive the dread which ministers entertain of reform. The watch-word of the ministerial party, by which they hope to defeat all attempts at renovation, is the constitution. They seek to persuade that all the abuses which have been already detected, and the thousand which still remain behind, are integral and necessary *parts* of the constitution, and that the constitution will be destroyed, if its defects are removed.

The session is now closed, it will be a memorable one in the annals of the united empire.

Whether the important and unexpected events which have taken place, in consequence of the investigation into abuses, will prove the commencement of an era of reform, and consequent happiness; whether the popular fervour will again subside into apathy, or what consequences may be the result, remain inscrutable to human ken. Let the termination be as it may, the present crisis will be important in history. The people, in a more general way than they have for several preceding years, demand reform. The two houses of parliament, and the active agents of government, do not appear

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* An Estimate of the Savings in the National Expenditure, as stated by Mr. Wardle, on his motion for Papers, in the House of Commons:

Army	6,182,000
Management of Revenue	1,440,000
Commissioners of Accounts and Inquiry	75,000
Pensions	300,000
Colonies	500,000
Bounties	130,000
Allowances on Debt	210,000
Military Expenditure of Ireland	2,000,000
	£10,857,000

The savings in the Naval department would fully make the total of *Eleven Millions!* and cover any errors in rating the savings in the other departments too high.

to participate in this feeling, further than as they in a few instances admitted the power of popular opinion, and gave way, or appeared to give way, to its influence.

But the people in many places are aroused; even now, while this Retrospect is penning, the inhabitants of the county of Essex are on the eve of meeting to vindicate their rights, to assemble and deliberate on public events, as after two applications the sheriff had refused to call a meeting of that county. It remains to be seen whether during the present recess of parliament, the popular opinion will be decidedly and unequivocally expressed in favour of reform. Much will undoubtedly be done to lull the people into a state of indifference, but if they do express their sentiments in favour of reform, with firmness and moderation, we think ministers will concede; and parliament in the next session may probably recognize the just rights of the people to a correction of abuses. Whatever may be attempted by sap, the period to revive the system of terror we trust will not be again attempted. Our present cabinet do not appear to possess the destructive energies of a Pitt.

SCOTLAND.

In our last month's Retrospect we alluded to the rising spirit of our Scottish neighbours. For this month our information from that quarter is scanty.

At the celebration of Mr. Pitt's birth-day at Edinburgh, Lord Melville made a speech, in which after talking of the great land marks of the constitution, and against reformers, he expressed his determination to act in case attempts should be made to do away abuses or according to his phrase, to alter old established usages, to follow the practice of his friend whose memory they were met to celebrate. But we ask is peculation one "of the established usages of the constitution," or one of "those blessings, which these countries afford to all descriptions of men." In truth the selfish interests of PECULATORS and the interests of the nation are widely different. We have not heard whether the noted Alexander Trotter of peculating memory attended to support his noble patron and partner on this occasion.

It is worthy of notice that the Edinburgh Reviewers in their last number, are entirely silent on the subject of reform, or the removal of abuses, though the recent investigation in parliament on the Duke of York's business, and other instances of corruption gave so good an opportunity of explaining their sentiments on these subjects.—They have on several instances lately professed manly and virtuous sentiments: but this late omission gives room to suspect that their patriotism is guided by the politics of the old opposition party in parliament: and this party have on the late occasions displayed no energy in detecting abuses. In an article on the biography of those who figured in the French revolution, the Reviewers discover their aristocratic prejudices, and seek to inspire a dread of reform. But it is not fair to charge the excesses of the French to this cause, solely, or principally? The despotism of their former government, and the coalition of princes against their newly regenerated liberty assisted to prepare the crisis of delirium. The skilful physician examines the predisposing causes which produce the deleterious effects of a wide-spreading epidemic. The French Revolution has failed hitherto to produce the good effects which the friends of liberty expected from it, but it is not a legitimate conclusion that all attempts to procure reform will end in a similar disappointment.

IRELAND.

As an examination into the grievance of tithes is a measure connected with the best interests of our country, we sincerely regret that Mr. Parnell's motion, for an address to appoint commissioners to inquire into this subject, was negatived It was a temperate manner of proceeding, which left time for further consideration. We fear it is intended to afford no relief in this case, and if so, it was consistent to make no inquiry.

The Commissioners for inquiring into the state of Education in Ireland, have made a report to Parliament in this session. It appears to contain much important matter. We hope shortly to present our readers with a full detail of its contents.

Our Irish finance minister has been

again left in a minority, on a clause in the Irish Revenue regulation bill, which exempted officers from actions for taking bribes from distillers, previous to 1808. The introduction of such a clause was disgraceful to the officers who needed such an amnesty, and to their superiors who so long permitted such conduct to pass unnoticed. Now that the nation is a little aroused to look into abuses, a plea is set up, that there should be no examination of the past. As well might there be a bill introduced to prevent criminal prosecutions against persons guilty of picking pockets prior to 1808. The clause was evidence of criminality against the actors in such scenes, whether as principals or accessaries; but members of boards might be restrained from inquiry into abuses of inferior officers, by a consciousness of wanting that indulgence which they showed to others. Great mismanagement exists in the financial department. Ministers, as long as they could, liked to lay on fresh taxes, because they had thus the means of extending their influence through the country, by the appointment of additional collectors. Evasions were practised, and the actual receipts into the treasury fell far short of what might have been the produce of the taxes well managed. It would be for the interest of the country to have fewer taxes, but these taxes to be fairly and impartially levied. He who occasions a defalcation in the revenue, whether an officer, or the subject liable to pay the duty, is not so much defrauding the treasury, as injuring his neighbour; for if taxes fall short, the deficiency will be made up by fresh articles of taxation, and thus the burden is unequally thrown on the conscientious.

In the exposition brought forward by Mr. Tardle, of the abuses in the management of the finances of the empire, the manner of collecting the revenue in Ireland is eminently conspicuous, and justifies the claim to the character to which our poor country has long been entitled, as *the land of jobbing*. Expensive as the collection of the revenue is in Great Britain, if the expense in Ireland were reduced to the same standard, the saving would be very considerable; but jobbing in the supreme degree has for many years distinguished our Irish boards.

The cost of collecting the Irish Revenue is 11⅝ per cent., while the English costs 4½. The difference is enormous; after making every allowance for the additional expense of collecting a smaller sum, in which case the rate per cent is necessarily higher, but not in such disproportions.

Our countryman, Henry Parnell, in his speech on this occasion, pointed out the enormity of the charges on collection in Ireland, and stated, that an annual saving might be made of 388,000*l*.

In this view of politics we sometimes may be allowed to give it a prospective cast, and anticipate approaching events likely shortly to occur. We now venture to make some remarks on the processions which usually take place on the 12th of next month, and call upon the liberal of the Protestant part of the community, to consider the hurtful tendency of such processions. They certainly irritate the most numerous portion of our population, without producing the smallest salutary effect. They promote disunion, and weaken our strength. Last year, in the town of Mountrath, in the Queen's county, some distressing events were the consequences of this injudicious pageantry. The houses of several of the Catholics were attacked, and their windows broken. The priest of the town was compelled to fly, and expose himself to injury in his health, by wading across a river. He was previously in a state of ill health, and he died shortly after. At the ensuing assizes, a man was tried for breaking the windows, and found guilty. The judge sentenced him to imprisonment, with some pointed observations on the absurdity of his laying claim to loyalty, while he was violating the laws. Others were acquitted, and some of the witnesses were charged with being guilty of perjury, for the sake of gratifying revenge. Thus criminations and recriminations, much ill blood and bickerings probably with errors on both sides, resulted from this ill-judged observance of a day, and of an event, the commemoration of which, now, after the lapse of considerably more

than a century, might be suffered to fall into oblivion.

If we try this mode of irritation practised on our neighbours, by the rule of doing unto others as we wish others should do to us, it will not stand the test of examination. No one would like to have the triumph of a procession in opposition to his peculiar opinions, annually paraded before his view. The practise has a strong tendency to stir up the angry passions; and so far from being the test of the truth of Protestantism, or a discriminating badge of loyalty, is only the signal of disunion among neighbours. Sincerely attached to the peace and welfare of our country, we reprobate the practice, and most heartily do we wish to allay animosities, and heal the breaches of preceding generations.—We would by every means in our power endeavour to cherish a spirit of wise conciliation and concession, which would have a tendency to prevent the horrors which may attend a continuance of a system of mutual irritation and hostility. Ireland will never be a happy country so long as ancient animosities are kept alive in the breasts of the rival parties, which have so long distracted our unhappy country, paralized her energies, and rendered her sons, by a mistaken policy, hostile to each other.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

THE SUPREME GOVERNING JUNTA, TO THE SPANISH NATION.

It is three ages, Spaniards, since the salutary laws on which the nation founded its defence against the attempts of tyranny, have been destroyed.—Our fathers did not know how to preserve the precious deposite of liberty, which their fathers had bequeathed them, and although all the provinces of Spain successively struggled to defend it, our evil stars which now began to pursue us, have rendered useless those generous efforts.—After having silenced reason and justice, the laws from that time forward have been nothing else than an expression, more or less tyrannical, or more or less beneficent of a particular will.—Providence, as if to punish the loss of that beautiful prerogative of freemen, has sentenced us to be unhappy, and paralized our valour, arrested the progress of our understanding, protracted civilization, and after having blended and exhausted the fountains of prosperity, we have come to that condition, that an insolent tyrant has formed a project of subduing under his yoke the greatest nation of the globe, whithout reckoning upon its will, and despising its resistance.——In vain have there been some instances within these last three ages of disasters, in which the best directed will of the princes has attempted to remedy this, or the other plagues of the state—In vain the increased illustration of Europe has lately inspired our statesmen with projects of reform both useful and necessary.—Buildings cannot be erected upon sands, and without fundamental and constituted laws to defend the good already done, and to prevent the evil which is intended to be done, it is useless for the philosopher in his study, and the public man in the theatre of business, to exert himself for the good of the people. The most useful meditations, the best combined projects, are either not put in execution, or if they should be, they immediately fall to the ground.—In the moment of a happy inspiration, succeeds another of an unfortunate one—to the spirit of economy and order, a spirit of prodigality and rapine—to a prudent and mild minister, an avaricious and mad favourite—to the moderation of a pacific monarch, the rage of an inhuman conqueror—and thus, without principles, without an established and fixed system, to which public measures and dispositions can be affixed, the ship of the state floats without her sails, without a helm or direction, until, as has happened to the Spanish monarchy, it is dashed to pieces on some rock by the hurricane of tyranny.——The evils which are derived from so vicious a beginning cannot be calculated, when they are accumulated in such a manner, that nothing less than a revolution can destroy them.—The Junta itself, in the midst of the power which you have placed in its hands; a power which makes them tremble on account of its unlimited extension, frequently

meets in those ancient vices, insuperable difficulties in the execution of its wishes.——If the disorders of the government in the last twenty years had been less, believe, Spaniards, that your evils at this moment would not be so great—believe, that our enemies would not enjoy the advantages they obtained, not over the zeal and prudence of your government, nor over the valour and constancy which every moment are greater in you, but over the ruinous and miserable state to which the many years of arbitrary government which have been passing over us, has brought us to.—Thus it is, that when the Supreme Junta took upon itself the supreme authority, it did not deem itself less called upon to defend you from the enemy, than to procure and establish your interior felicity on a solid basis. It announced this solemnly to you from the beginning, and as solemnly obliged itself, in the face of the world, to the performance of this sacred duty —The events of the war prevented at that time the commencing of the grand work, to which it is now going to put its hand, and the unexpected commotions which have succeeded one after another, seemed to require the suspension of any other object and to wait for more serene and tranquil times —But, the Junta never lost sight of this grand thought; the same chain of evils with which fortune, when roused, delights in proving our constancy, is that which precipitates its execution.—How otherways can be recompensed those floods of blood which run through every corner of the peninsula!—those sacrifices which at every instant the Spanish loyalty presents, without being over fatigued by them; that moral resistance as universal as it is sublime, which disconcerts and renders desperate our enemies, even in the midst of their victories. He must have a breast of brass, who, to a people that so magnanimously resisted so cruel a calamity, should not point out to him immediately a crown of happiness, which awaits him as a recompense for his heroic fatigues.——When this dreadful contest is concluded, no less beautiful for our people, when persecuted by misfortune, than when crowned by victory, the Spaniard shall say to himself, with that full pride with which his situation ought to inspire him, "My fathers have left me for an inheritance, slavery and misery; I leave to my descendants liberty and glory." This sentiment of future happiness, which by reflection in some, and by instinct in all, animates you at present, Spaniards, is the same which made you abhor the former tyranny, which has reduced you to the deplorable state in which you see yourselves; the same which filled you with enthusiasm and with hope when you should be able to destroy it, and raise to the throne that innocent prince, who most sincerely wished to make you happy; the same which gave you valour and boldness to declare war against the most powerful nation, without armies and without resources; the same, in a word, that inspired you with invincible horror against that tyrant who has thrown upon you all the plagues of misfortune.—— Know then, that this institution of happiness shall not be defrauded of its hopes. Let us take from our detractors every pretext for calumniating us; they say that we are fighting incessantly to defend our ancient abuses, and the inveterate and enormous vices of our corrupted administration. But let them know, from this moment, that your battles, although for independence, are also for the felicity of your country.— Let them know that you do not wish to depend henceforward on the uncertain will, or the variable temperament of one man only; that you do not wish to continue to be the play-thing of a court without justice, under the controul of an insolent favourite, or of a capricious woman; and that on the renewal of the august edifice of your ancient laws, you wish to place an eternal barrier between the death bearing despotism of your sacred rights. This barrier, Spaniards, consists in a good constitution, to aid and support the operations of the monarch, when they are just, and to restrain them when he follows evil counsels.

Without a constitution, all Reform is precarious, all prosperity uncertain; without it, the people are no more than flocks of slaves, put in motion at the order of a will, frequently unjust, and always unrestrained; without it, the forces of the entire society,

intended to procure the greatest advantages for all its members, are employed exclusively to satisfy the ambition, or satiate the phrenzy of a few, and perhaps of only one. It is absolutely necessary that you should have a constitution, by which a Reform of all the branches which are to contribute to your prosperity, are solidly secured; from whence the basis and principles of a sociable organization, worthy of men like you, may be derived. This constitution, Spaniards, ought to be the principal effect of your toils, a comfort for the desolation you have suffered, the reward of your labour, and the hopes of your victories. It certainly will not exhibit the infamous characters which are contained in the infamous code published by Napoleon at Bayonne, and framed long before in the deposite of his intrigues. With it they wanted to legitimate the most monstrous usurpation, known in the annals of the world. With ours, it is intended to secure the public prosperity of the state, and the particular one of the citizens, performing *bona fide*, what all the nation wishes. In that there was not time to deliberate, nor liberty to resist, nor powers to establish. In ours, the actual Representatives of the nation will excite wise men to expose freely what they think, they will call them to examine, and discuss the same political truths, and the best form of its application; and the work of their knowledge, their zeal, and their experience, shall be presented before the free sanction of the nation, solemnly *assembled in Cortes*. The insidious forms of the constitution of Bayonne are not sufficient to disguise the legalized despotism that appears in every part of it. In the Spanish constitution, the Public Will, lawfully and sufficiently expressed, shall be the *law;* government limiting its functions, within the terms which nature has pointed out in the political order. The consequences of the one, worthy in every respect of the fountain of iniquity from whence they spring, have been the plunder, the perdition, the ruin, and the deplorable desolation of the men and of the people, for whose felicity it was said to be intended. The other, founded on the basis of virtue, and purchased at the expense of the most glorious efforts of patriotism, will have for its undeniable results, the liberty, and lasting happiness of the Spanish nation. The Supreme Junta has taken the rudder of the Monarchy, in the midst of the storm, and will only keep it, whilst danger and uncertainty exist, contributing by these direct and principal ways to cast this grand anchor, which so materially contributes to save the country from danger, in doing which it believes, that it fills one of its most religious obligations.

This should not be less glorious in the eyes of the nation, and of its political interests, than the extirpation of its enemies, and the triumph of the Spanish arms; and when the day comes, that it shall lay down the authority now invested in them into the hands of that government, which the constitution shall appoint, it will be for them the most glorious day of their political existence. Then they will think themselves rewarded for their watchfulness, their cares, and the dangers to which they are subject, by exercising a power to which they were not elevated by ambition, nor called by intrigue, but by the unanimous and determined vote of the provinces of the kingdom, that have sworn to be independent of all foreign dominion, and within themselves free and happy. Such have been the considerations the Supreme Junta had in view, in agreeing to the following decree:

ROYAL DECREE.

The Supreme Governing Power of the kingdom, considering it to be its primary obligation to free the country from the evils which have until now afflicted it; all which have been occasioned by the arbitrary laws to which it has been subject; pursuing the just and mild intentions of our very beloved king Ferdinand the 7th. who was desirous to re-constitute the Monarchy, re establishing in it the National Repre entation of its *ancient Cortes*, desirous that the nation should take before the eyes of Europe and of the Universe, the noble and strong acts of a people worthily and legally constituted, desirous that this great work should be performed, which the

That our thanks are due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. for the consistency of his conduct in seconding Mr. Wardle's motion for inquiry, to lord Folkstone for his early and steady support of the measure; to Mr. Whitbread and Sir Samuel Romilly, for their able exertions during its progress; and to general Ferguson, lord Archibald Hamilton, Mr. Madocks, and such other members of the house of commons, as by their virtuous co-operation proved themselves to be the actual representatives of the people.

4th. That during the late inquiry, we observed with the deepest regret, that in an assembly of persons styling themselves the representatives of the people, the influence of public opinion was unblushingly condemned, and its legitimacy openly denied; but we triumph in the reflection, that the authority which his majesty's ministers dared to revile, they have found themselves compelled to obey.

5th. That we consider the late happy detection of Lord Castlereagh in his foul attempt on the constitution, as a pledge on the part of the virtuous representatives of the people, that they will not slumber at their posts until our formidable enemy, corruption, be completely subdued.

6th. That we look with confidence to a speedy and effectual reform of the commons house of parliament, as the only means of rooting out corruption; and in effecting reform, we earnestly deprecate the insidious interference of those who are themselves profiting by the continuance of state Abuses and Reversionary Sinecures.

7th. That we seek no other reform than such as shall insure to us the restoration of that free and glorious constitution which our forefathers so bravely acquired; which they again and again so manfully asserted, and which they so religiously transmitted to their posterity as their best, their inalienable birthright.

8th. That our thanks are due to Mr. John Winter, jun. and the other independent citizens at whose instance this meeting was convened.

9th. That copies of these resolutions be subscribed by the chairman in the name of the meeting, and be transmitted by him to Mr. Wardle, Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folkstone, Sir S. Romilly, Mr. Whitbread, General Ferguson, Lord A. Hamilton, and Mr. Madocks.

10th. That our acknowledgements are due to Mr. Matthew Mills Coates, for the Resolutions this day adopted, and for his zealous and able exertions on the present occasion.

11th. That the proceedings of this day be inserted in all the Bristol Newspapers, the Morning Chronicle, the Star, and the Globe. W. Coates, Chairman.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the chairman, for his able and impartial conduct.

MR. ERSKINE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Copy of a Dispatch from Mr. Secretary Canning to the Hon. D. M. Erskine, Dated Foreign Office, 23d January, 1809.

Sir.—If there really exist in those individuals who are to have a leading share in the new administration of the United States, that disposition to come to a complete and cordial understanding with Great Britain, of which you have received from them such positive assurances; in meeting that disposition it would be useless and unprofitable to recur to a recapitulation of the causes from which the differences between the two Governments have arisen, or of the arguments already so often repeated in support of that system of retaliation to which his Majesty has unwillingly had recourse—That system his Majesty must unquestionably continue to maintain, unless the object of it can be otherwise accomplished. But after the profession on the part of so many of the leading Members of the Government of the United States, of a sincere desire to contribute to that object in a manner which should render the continuance of the system adopted by the British Government unnecessary, it is thought right that a fair opportunity should be offered to the American Government to explain its meaning, and give proof of its sincerity. The extension of the interdiction of the American harbours to the ships of war of France as well as of Great Britain, is, as stated in my former dispatch, an acceptable symptom of the system of impartiality towards both Belligerents; the first that has been publicly manifested by the American Government. The like extension of the Non-importation Act to other Belligerents is equally proper in this view. These measures remove those preliminary objections, which must otherwise have precluded any useful or amicable discussion. In this state of things, is it possible for Great Britain to entertain propositions, which while such manifest partiality was shown to her enemies, were not consistent either with her dignity or her interests.

From the report of your conversation with Mr. Madison, Mr. Gallatin, and Mr. Smith, it appears—1st, That the American Government is prepared, in the event of his Majesty's consenting to withdraw the

circumstances command, and the heroic sacrifices of the people require, anxious that it should approach to that degree of perfection which men are allowed to obtain, when they proceed with good faith, and with a desire of doing right, has decreed as follows:

1st. All wise Spaniards who have meditated on projects of Reform with respect to the constitution of the kingdom in general, as well as on the particular branches of public administration, are invited by the Junta to communicate their ideas with full liberty, and as they may judge may answer best for the good of their country.

2d. Those writings shall be sent to the Junta through the Secretary's office, within the term of two months from the date of this decree, and the authors will subscribe their names, or a mark by which they may be known in proper time.

3d. These Writings after being examined in a summary way, the writers of those which are found to be really useful by the observations, or by the knowledge they contain, shall be called upon, in order to take a part in the commissions of *Reform*, which shall be immediately created.

4th. These Commissions shall be presided each by a member of the Junta, and in them will be examined and prepared the works which are to be presented for approbation.

5th. The projects approved of by the Junta shall be presented to the National Sanction, and from it will receive the character, the authority, and the force of law.

6th. The Junta does not anticipate its judgment, to prepossess the public opinion with respect to these projects; it only believes that it ought to announce from this moment certain principles, upon which the wish and desire of the nation has irrevocably resolved, and from which nothing that can be written or discussed on the subject of Reform, can alter. Those principles are reduced to the following:

The Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Religion, is the only Religion of the *State*.—The Constitution of Spain is to be a monarchy, hereditary in Ferdinand the 7th, his descendents, and *those called by the Law to succeed them*.—The nation is to be governed henceforward by the Laws freely deliberated, and administered—there shall be a *National Cortes*, in the manner and form which may be established, taking into consideration the difference and alterations which have taken place since the time when they were lawfully held.—*Our American and other colonies* shall be the same as the Metropolis in *all Rights and Constitutional Prerogatives*. The reform which our legal codes, administration, and recovery of public rents, and every thing belonging to the direction of commerce, agriculture, arts, education, as well national, marine, and warlike are to undergo, shall be only and exclusively directed to obtain the greatest ease, and the better illustration of the Spanish people, so horridly teazed until now.

7. The nation which shall be legally and solemnly constituted from ....
On that day, the *General Cortes* of the Spanish monarchy, after being so long neglected, shall meet together for the first time.

BRITISH.

AT A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF BRISTOL, *Convened at the Guildhall, the 26th of May* 1809.

WILLIAM COATES, esq. in the Chair.

It was Resolved, 1st. That at this momentous period, when the people are testifying the high sense they entertain of their superior rights as Britons, by the sacrifices they daily make of many of the comforts, if not of the necessaries of life, for the maintenance and defence of the State, they have an undoubted right to insist that those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, should at least abstain from undisguised profligacy and notorious corruption.

2. That Gwyllam Lloyd Wardle, esq. in his parliamentary exertions respecting the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander in Chief, displayed that zealous vigilance for the public welfare, that clear discernment, that pure disinterestedness, that inextinguishable ardour, and that unshaken constancy, which characterise the true patriot. That he has thereby justly acquired the admiration and gratitude of every uncorrupted member of the community, and he is requested to accept this heartfelt acknowledgement from the Citizens of Bristol now assembled.

Orders in Council of January and November 1807, to withdraw contemporaneously on its part the interdiction of its harbours to ships of war, and all Non-Intercourse and Non-Importation Acts, so far as respects Great Britain, leaving them in force with respect to France, and the Powers which adopt or act under her Decrees.—2dly, (What is of the utmost importance, as precluding a new source of misunderstanding, which might arise after the adjustment of the other questions) that America is willing to renounce, during the present war, the pretension of carrying on, in time of war, all trade with the enemy's colonies, from which she was excluded during peace.—3dly, Great Britain, for the purpose of securing the operation of the embargo, and of the *bona fide* intention of America to prevent her citizens from trading with France, and the powers adopting and acting under the French Decrees, is considered as being at liberty to capture all such American vessels as may be found attempting to trade with the ports of any of these Powers; without which security for the observance of the Embargo, the raising it nominally with respect to Great Britain alone, would, in fact, raise it with respect to all the world.

On these conditions his Majesty would consent to withdraw the Orders in Council of January and November 1807, so far as respects America. As the first and second of these conditions are the suggestions of the persons in authority in America to you, and as Mr. Pinkney has recently (but the first time) expressed to me his opinion, that there will be no indisposition on the part of his Government to the enforcement by the naval power of Great Britain of the regulations of America with respect to France, and the countries to which these regulations continue to apply, but that his Government was itself aware, that without such enforcement these regulations must be altogether nugatory; I flatter myself that there will be no difficulty in obtaining a distinct and official recognition of these conditions from the American Government. For this purpose you are at liberty to communicate this dispatch in extenso to the American Secretary of State. Upon receiving through you, on the part of the American Government, a distinct and official recognition of the three mentioned conditions, his Majesty will lose no time in sending to America a Minister fully empowered to consign them to a formal and regular Treaty. As, however, it is possible that the delay which must intervene before the actual conclusion of a Treaty may appear to the American Government to deprive this arrangement of its benefits, I am to authorise you, if the American Government should be desirous of acting upon the agreement, before it is reduced to a regular form (either by the immediate repeal of the embargo, and the other Acts in question, or by engaging to repeal them on a particular day) to assure the American Government of his Majesty's readiness to meet such a disposition in the manner best calculated to give it immediate effect. Upon the receipt hereof an Official Note, containing an engagement for the adoption by the American Government of the three conditions above specified, his Majesty will be prepared, on the faith of such engagement, either immediate (if the repeal shall have been immediate in America) or on any day specified by the American Government of that repeal, reciprocally to recal the Orders in Council, without waiting for the conclusion of the Treaty; and you are authorised in the circumstances herein described, to take such reciprocal engagements on his Majesty's behalf.—I am, &c. &c. GEORGE CANNING.

The following is the Act of Abdication of the late King Gustavus Adolphus IV. which was read in the sitting of the Diet of the 10th instant:—

"In the name of God—We, Gustavus Adolphus, by the grace of God, King of Sweden, of the Goths, Wends, &c. Duke of Sleswick, Holstein, &c. make known, that having been proclaimed king, this day seven years back, and ascended with a bleeding heart, a throne stained with the blood of a beloved and revered father, we regret not being able to promote the true welfare and honour of this ancient realm, inseparable from the happiness of a free and independent people. Now whereas we are convinced that we cannot any longer continue our royal functions, and preserve tranquillity and order in this kingdom, therefore, we consider it is our sacred duty to abdicate our royal dignity and crown, which we do hereby freely and uncompelled, to pass our remaining days in the fear and worship of GOD, wishing that all our subjects, and their descendants, may enjoy more happiness and prosperity in future, through the mercy and blessing of GOD. In testimony and confirmation thereof, we have personally written and signed this present and corroborated it with our royal seal.

(L.S.) GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

Grisholm Castle, March 19, 1809."

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

On Thursday the 29th ult. a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast, was held to take into consideration a plan for the abolition of mendicity in this town, conformable to a paper previously circulated, of which a copy is given (page 435 in this number). At this meeting it was agreed that a house should be procured for a repository and sales-room, where work of all descriptions should be provided for those who applied, that they should be paid for their labour, and if through inability they were incapable of earning a sum sufficient for their maintenance, the deficiency should be supplied. The funds are to be raised by a voluntary subscription. The Sovereign, who presided at the meeting, has also offered in the name of the corporation, a sum of from 3 to 400*l.* which had been vested in them for the use of the poor, to be applied to the augmentation of the revenues. A committee of thirty-one gentlemen has been nominated, and it is confidently expected that the exertion now made will have the happiest effects, by providing work for those who are able and willing to help themselves, and by clearing the streets of the number of idle sturdy vagrants that at present infest them; as it is to be hoped that no person will through a mistaken benevolence, bestow alms to strolling beggars, when a place is provided in which adequate means of support are afforded them.

Among the public occurrences since our last, we are sorry to recount the incalculable loss to the proprietors of the Belfast Mills, occasioned by that very extensive building, stored with grain and flour, having been reduced to ashes.

Within a space of little more than twelve months, the facility of travelling has greatly increased in this part of Ireland. The following Coaches now leave Belfast for the following places, at the following times:

THE MAIL-COACH, for Dublin, starts every morning from the Donegall-arms, at 10 o'clock.

THE NEWRY-FLY, starts from the Donegall-arms, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at half past 9 o'clock, and returns next day.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Donaghadee, every afternoon at 5.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Colerain and Derry, through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Ballymena and Ballymoney, every afternoon at 5.

A DAY COACH to Colerain belonging to the same proprietors, at 8 o'Clock on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and returns from Colerain on the evenings of Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

A COACH for Cookstown through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Toome, Castledawson, Magherafelt and Moneymore, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 8 o'Clock, and returns on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

JOHN M'COY'S COACHES through Lisburn, Moira, and Lurgan, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and thence on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to Armagh, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays to Newry, returning from each place on the alternate days to Lurgan, and forming a communication on 6 days in the week, between Belfast and Lurgan.

A COACH from Lisburn comes in on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, at 11 o'Clock, and returns on the evenings of the same days at 5.

THE HIBERNIAN-COACH, starts from the Donegall-arms, at 8 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and runs through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randlestown, Ballymena and Ballymoney, to Colerain.

CARRICKFERGUS-COACH, starts from Mr. Samuel Kennedy's, at the Exchange, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5 o'clock in the evening.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

ANTRIM....*Married*...Mr. J. Weatherp, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Susan Johnson, of Ballynure. At Belfast, the Rev. E. May, rector of Belfast, to Miss Sinclaire, eldest daughter of the late W. Sinclaire, of Donegall-place, esq. S. J. Pittar, esq. of Dublin, to Miss Margaret M'Neil, of Larne. Mr. W. Orr, linen-merchant, of Belfast, to Mary, daughter of the late Mr. R. Smith, of this town.

Died....At Ballycraigy, near Carnmoney, aged 109, Eleanor Guthrie: she retained her faculties to the last, and was able to read without spectacles, till within a few days of her death. In Lisburn, aged 53, Mrs. Isabella Smith wife of W. Smith, esq. If to have fulfilled the duties of life, as a truly affectionate wife and mother is "to prove by the ends of being to have been," she was justly entitled to that praise. In Belfast, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Mr. P. Connor, notary public and master in chancery; a man whose *liberality* of sentiment and *benevolence* of heart entitled him to the esteem of the *good* among men: his funeral was attended by a very numerous and respectable class of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood.

ARMAGH....*Died*....Aged 66, Mrs. C. Pooler, of Tyross.

CAVAN...*Married*...S. Moore, of Moorehall, esq. to Miss Nesbitt, only daughter of Colonel Nesbitt, of Lisoner.

L. DERRY...*Married*...Capt. E. Powell, to Miss Cannon, late of Aughnacloy.

the whole *gang* (as they are termed) of slaves. He did this with his usual prudence as well as generosity. He sent out an agent to Jamaica, and made him hire a vessel, in which they were all transported to America, where the little community was established in various handicraft trades. The members of it prospered under the blessing of his care, and lived to show that the black skin inclosed hearts as full of gratitude, and minds as capable of improvement as that of the proudest white. Such was the conduct of this English merchant! During all this course of well-doing, his own manners were simple, his hospitality large and his charities universal."

MRS. ANNE SEWARD.

This well known and justly celebrated literary character, was the only daughter of the Rev. Mr. Seward, rector of Egam in Derbyshire, a gentleman who had presented himself to the public as an author.

His daughter gave early intimations of a superiority of talent; and these as might be expected, were carefully fostered by the attentive cares of her parent, who seized the earliest opportunity of impressing on her infant mind, a taste for polite literature, and poetry in particular. So well were his exertions aided by her natural powers, that at the age of three years, she could recite the Allegro of Milton; and before she was ten, could repeat a large portion of the Paradise lost.

Her early turn for poetry, which even at that age showed itself in attempts at the composition of verse, was not, however uncontrolled. She was prevailed upon by her mother to restrain, and almost wholly relinquish her favourite pursuit. In this perhaps she was fortunate; for guided and and instigated by one parent, those studies would most probably have arrogated an uncontrouled dominion over her mind, to the exclusion of other occupations, not less valuable, though less brilliant, had they not been curbed by the checks imposed on them by the other.

Yet poetry was still the amusement of her leisure hours. She wrote with great ease and facility. On the death of her only sister she composed an elegy when sitting in the garden. The first publication that brought her into public notice, was an elegy on the Death of Captain Cook, which was deservedly admired, and is now to be met with in several miscellaneous selections of poetry, this, together with an ode to the Sun, was published in the year 1780. Soon after appeared a monody for the death of the unfortunate Major André. It is needless to give an opinion of these poems, their merits are too well ascertained to require any further comment. They attracted no small degree of attention from the admirers of this fascinating branch of letters, and obtained the decided approbation of the celebrated Dr. Darwin.

Some other poems and a novel named Louisa, have since been published by her. She also translated, or to speak more correctly, paraphrased some of the odes of Horace, in a manner which gives a strong proof of the correctness of her taste, and the vivacity of her imagination.

Her last production is a life of her former friend and literary admirer, the late Dr. Darwin. It is peculiarly pleasing to study the lives of great men, written either by themselves, or by those who have had opportunities of forming a just estimate of their character, and illustrating it by characteristic anecdotes, which can only be known to a friend.

Bath, March 25, 1809.

A beautiful young lady, in a neighbouring city, was lately rescued from the most imminent danger of being burned to death. As the method of her preservation from this dreadfully calamitous situation might be successfully adopted in like cases, a minute detail of all the circumstances ought to be generally known. Her muslin dress, being touched by a candle, caught fire, and the flame instantly blazed above her head. Fortunately two of her sisters were in her chamber. One sister, with a long and strong pair of scissars, blunt at both points, with great expedition and steady resolution, cut through all her clothes on the hind part of her neck, all down her back; that is, through her gown, her stays, in the space between two whalebones, her shift, and the bindings of her petticoats. As one sister was thus employed, the other slit up the gown at the wrists, and then immediately, with a pair of tongs from the fender, took firm hold of the clothes on fire, upon the fore part of the neck, and pulled them forcibly forward, and downward from the shoulders; when all the garment instantly dropped off upon the floor, and were thrown into the chimney in a blaze. The time between the commencement of the fire, and till the young lady was rescued from all danger, was less than two minutes. The flame had scorched her face and neck, so as to be very painful for some hours, but not even a blister had arisen. A delay of but a few minutes longer, would have occasioned incurable mischief; either death or deformity must

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN...*Married*...Dr. Duke, of the Wicklow Militia, to Miss Face, of Babbington. Charles Helwis Laton, esq. of the 1st Dragoons, to Harriet, second daughter of Col. Hugh Stafford Mr. W. Hull, of Belfast, to Miss Maria Brunton, daughter of T. Brunton, esq. Brow of the Hill, near Dublin.

Died....At Liffey-street Chapel, the Rev. T. A. Clarke; this young clergyman, who has distinguished himself so much in this city for his piety and talents, was the youngest son of Captain Clarke, near Lisburn. He had been educated a Protestant, but joined the Catholic profession.—He became a student of the Irish College at Lisbon, in 1793, where he made his courses of philosophy and Divinity, and became remarkable for his reasoning powers and excellent judgment.—His benevolence extended to all—to the widow, whose tears he dried, and to the orphan, to whom he was a father. In composing and preparing his discourses, he possessed wonderful facility. Solely intent on profiting his hearers, he was in a great measure careless of ornament: His style was plain though pure, his reasoning accurate and conclusive, and his subjects methodical and judiciously arranged. As his ideas were his own, his sermons did not commonly embrace general topics, but went either to prove and elucidate the tenets of his religion, or were vehement and pointed exhortations against the prevailing vices of the day. It was in the ardent and unremitting exercise of sincere piety and elevated talents that he was visited by an early death, in the prime of life, before he counted many years. The esteem in which this excellent man was held by every order of the community, could not be better exemplified than by the numerous and respectable procession which accompanied his remains to the grave. There were upwards of 1100 gentlemen with scarfs, and more than 150 coaches, independent of an immense populace, who conducted themselves with the most creditable decorum.

KING'S CO...*Married*...R. Ledger, of Birr, esq. to Miss White, of the same town.

LOUTH...*Married*...R. Hamill, of Drogheda, esq to Rossetta, second daughter of W. Dardis, of Belgreen, Co. Meath, esq.

MEATH...*Married*...William Armstrong, esq. capt. 2d heavy German Dragoons, to Miss Hopkins, daughter of J. Hopkins, of Dances-court. esq.

MUNSTER.

CLARE....*Married*...At Ennis, W. H. Roberts, esq. of the 85th Regt. to Miss Fitzgerald, daughter of the Rev. M. Fitzgerald.

LIMERICK...*Married*...W. Browne, of the Londonderry Militia, esq. to Miss Bennett, only daughter and heiress of the late J. Bennett of Quarry-hill, esq.

WATERFORD...*Married*...The Rev. W. Price to Miss Graham, of Capel-street, Dublin.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY...*Married*...John Rosengreve, jun. of Gort, esq, to Miss Martin, of same place.

MAYO...*Died*...At Knockmore, aged 25, Mrs. Ormsby, wife of Lieut. Col. Ormsby, of the R. Mayo Militia.

BRITISH.

The London Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce, have communicated a desire to the Dublin Society, that specimens of marble may be sent to their Rooms in the Adelphi; and also have proposed a premium of a gold medal, one hundred guineas value, for the discovery of a quarry of white marble, fit for the purpose of statuary, and equal to those kinds imported from Italy.

Died....At Bramhum, near Wetherby, Henry Childerson, aged 102. For 70 years he had been a daily labourer, and partaker of the bounty of the hospitable mansion of J. Fox, esq. of Branham-park; in his diurnal journies to and from which it has been calculated that he had travelled the length of three times round the world. At Chelsea, Sir W. Henry Douglas, Bt. vice-admiral of the blue. He is succeeded by his brother, now Sir Howard Douglas, a lieutenant-colonel in the army, and commandant of the Royal Military College of High Wycombe. In London, T. Andrews, of Belfast, esq. a magistrate for the county of Antrim, and one of the Managers of the Academical Institution in Belfast.

Died...At Walthamstow, in the 81st year of his age, David Barclay. We extract from his character, as given in one of the London Papers, the following instance of his benevolence exerted towards the long oppressed Africans: "No man was ever more active than David Barclay, in promoting whatever might ameliorate the condition of man—largely endowed by Providence with the means, he felt it his duty to set great examples; and when an argument was set up against the emancipation of the negroes from slavery, '*that they were too ignorant and barbarous for freedom*,' he resolved, at his own expense, to demonstrate the fallacy of the imputation. Having had an estate in Jamaica fall to him, he determined, at the expense of 10,000*l.* to emancipate

of the Gospel History and the Divinity of Christ, during the season of Lent 1798. These were attended by numbers, and the stile of his eloquence, simple, grave, and unaffected, joined to the importance of the subject, and the well-known character of the speaker, gave them a weight and efficacy which could not but be attended with the happiest effect.

His public preaching was not confined to these. He was always ready to assist the public charities by his elogution; and during his residence in the country, frequently took a large share of the duty of public instruction. He has also published many small tracts on religious subjects, written for particular occasions.

He died in the 78th year of his age, leaving a shining example to all his successors in the sacred office, which cannot be too much admired, or too closely imitated.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

SINCE last report, the weather from being extremely hot, changed to wet, cold, and tempestuous, unusual at this season.

The crops on poor or light soils, which were suffering from the want of moisture, have been rather improved by the rain, and the general appearance indicates a tolerable produce.

Wheat in particular, looks well, the late sown crops, which at the beginning of the season appeared thin, have come forward beyond expectation.

In some districts where the land is flat, there are complaints of the potatoes having suffered by the late heavy rains, which rotted the sets in the drills. If farmers would get more into the practice of making the drill furrow very shallow, they would seldom suffer by wet weather, and the quality of their potatoes would be greatly improved by it; the writer of this report, has been many years in the habit of doing so, and experienced the best effects from the practice. To a defect in this respect is principally to be attributed the difference between the quality of potatoes raised in the drill and lazy bed way, so much complained of.

Great complaints of the flax crops are made over the whole country; and with too much justice; the prospect of a scarcity of that article never appeared so great as at the present moment; last year's crop was a bad one, and flax is now so scarce and dear that it is supposed there are not more than one half of the spinners employed at the wheel.

The new American seed that came late into the country, has the best appearance in the fields; but unless the season prove very favourable, there is not much reason to expect a good produce from such late sowing. In short if some favourable change does not take place, there is much reason for apprehending that our staple manufacture, will suffer from the want of the raw material.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

If the politician have to complain of blunders in the general mode of conducting the war, commercial men have no less reason to complain of the mode of carrying on the war against trade; and probably the errors in both cases may be traced in a considerable degree to the people, without exclusively confining the blame to administration.—It is generally confessed on all hands that the business of flax-seed has been miserably mismanaged this year. The British orders in council, roused the Americans to lay an embargo on their trade, and of course to prevent the exportation of flax-seed from that country. The internal restrictions on the trade of Russia, and Holland, likewise prevented our receiving a supply from those countries. In the prospect of these difficulties a meeting of linen drapers was invited to assemble at Armagh for the purpose of petitioning the executive and legislature to afford substantial relief by acting so towards America, as to induce her government to rescind the embargo; and by prudent and well timed concession remove the difficulties, which obstructed a full supply from that quarter. "No," say the majority at this meeting, preferring some undefined notions of loyalty, and of not interfering with *the wisdom and infallibility of his Majesty's ministers*, "we will not adopt this measure of petitioning; we will address Mr. Foster to remove our difficulties." Well! the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is addressed, in very indefinite terms, without clearly telling what is wanted; he feels the

have been the inevitable consequence. It may be proper to explain how these measures of prevention were so promptly and effectually executed. All the sisters had previously received complete instructions from their parents, in what method to proceed in such a dreadful emergency, if their muslin dress should catch fire. They had frequently consulted together how to act in the moment of alarming danger. Each of them had provided a proper pair of scissars for the purpose. It is impossible to express the extacy of joy which the sisters and parents expressed upon this happy occasion. They united in fervent thanksgivings to Providence for this wonderful deliverance from so dreadful a calamity.

BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D. BISHOP OF LONDON.

This celebrated, and truly respectable divine, was the son of a reputable tradesman in Yorkshire. He was born in the year 1731. After having received a school education at Rippon, he entered Christ's College, where he distinguished himself by assiduous application, devoting himself, even at that early period, to the studies required for the due performance of the sacred functions which he was one time to perform with so much honour to himself, and advantage to the ministry. This conduct will appear more laudable, if contrasted with that of so many candidates for holy orders, who frequently postpone the preparation until after their appointment. Nay, we have even instances of some who have extended their cautious scruples so far, as not to assume deacon's orders until the death of the incumbent whom they were to succeed prevented the possibility of being disappointed in the pecuniary emoluments to which they looked forward.

In the year 1755, Mr. P. was elected one of the Fellows, and appointed a preacher at Whitehall chapel. In four years after, he obtained the Seatonian prize poem for the best composition on death. It is the only essay of his pen in this species of composition; but as it has deservedly found a place in most selections of modern poetry, it is needless to comment on it here.

In 1761 he published a refutation of an essay entitled, "The History of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of exposing the sacred history to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. The answer to this appeared in the form of a sermon preached before the university of Cambridge. It is supposed that this discourse first introduced him to the patronage of Archbishop Secker, who appointed him one of his domestic chaplains, and presented him to the living of Withesham, in Kent, and shortly after to the rectory of Bucking, in the same county; as also to a prebend's stall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

In the year 1765 he married Miss Hodgson, and obtained the living of Hunton, and shortly after that of Lambeth, which he was permitted to hold with the former.

On the death of his venerable patron he was engaged, together with his Grace's other chaplain, Dr. Stinton, in the revision and publication of the Lectures on the Church Catechism, Sermons, &c. To the latter of these was prefixed a life of the author, written by Dr. Porteus, which has been very much admired.

In 1776 he was raised to the episcopal bench, as is supposed by the immediate influence of the queen, to whom Dr. P. had been private chaplain. On attaining to this dignity, having observed the remissness with which Good Friday was observed in the metropolis, he published a tract called "An earnest Exhortation to the religious Observance of Good Friday; in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lambeth." Although this Address was found fault with by some, as savouring too much of the rigid spirit of the last century, he had the satisfaction to find it had the desired effect. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, published and circulated a cheap edition in great numbers; by which means a more strict adherence to this anniversary has been since maintained.

In 1783, he pleaded the cause of the enslaved Africans, before the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and it must have afforded him the greatest satisfaction to have lived to see that measure accomplished, which he had been among the first to bring into public notice. In the same year he published a volume of sermons, to which he added a second the year after.

In 1787 he was translated to the see of London on the death of Bishop Lowth. Soon after his removal hither, he was the means of founding a society for the conversion of the Negro slaves in the West Indies, which has been attended with very happy effects. Indeed, his exertions to promote the cause he professed, have been unremitting, and pursued not only with perseverance but moderation. In order to check the spirit of infidelity which made such rapid progress, he delivered a course of Lectures on the truth

honour, and thinks he must be active. But the activity of ministers often prove injurious to the interests of trade. He opens the oil stores in England, and by means of a bounty, he induces the holders to send over large quantities of bad seed, much of which happily for the country remains unsold, and is now likely to return whence it came to be crushed into oil; but to the great injury of the country, a considerable part of this bad seed was sold for sowing. To facilitate this plan *of having the appearance of doing something*, he by an act, which he introduced into parliament, removes the summary penalty of £10. 10*s.* besides forfeiture of the seed, cask, &c. for selling bad seed, *and so far* leaves the sower without a remedy: but on a close examination of the acts, contrary to an opinion endeavoured to be propagated by the seller, it appears that a remedy at common law, still lies in case of bad seed being sold; for the 42d of Geo. III. cap 75, sec. 13, enacts:

"That if any person shall buy flax-seed, or hemp-seed, with an intent to sow the same, and it shall prove to be unsound, mixed, bad, damnified, or unfit for sowing, the penalties hereby inflicted on the person who shall have sold the same, shall not be deemed a bar to his or her bringing his or her action for damages, or suing for the same, by civil bill or otherwise, but that it shall and may be lawful for every person to sue and recover the damages, which he or she shall sustain by such seed, having been mixed, bad, damnified, or unfit for sowing, or different from the seed which the certificate given, or which ought to have been given at the time of sale, if demanded, imports, or would have imported."

The act of last session only repealed the summary penalty, and consequently the action at common law still remains. But this remedy affords small satisfaction to the sower. He not only loses the price of the seed and labour, and the rent of his land, but the means of his family's making a subsistence by their industry during the ensuing season, and is besides subjected to the expense and uncertainties of the law, and to the plea which sophistry may possibly adduce, that the unfavourable season, and not the bad quality of the seed, was the cause of its not growing. Assistant barristers at the ensuing quarter sessions, will probably determine in the first instance, as it is said many suits will be instituted for compensation. It is a subject of regret that such should be the state of things, so prejudicial to the linen manufacture. Nor more than half of the usual quantity is sown, and much of what was sown not growing: and this regret is increased, when it is considered that such a state is mostly owing to the joint blunders of the majority at Armagh, and our Irish finance minister whom they selected as the guardian of the interests of the linen trade. Nothing shows the futility of the plan in a stronger point of view, than this simple circumstance, that the scheme of introducing old seed into the country, has completely failed, and the only substantial relief experienced was in the unexpected arrival of new seed from America. The plan of those who were active in calling the meeting at Armagh, but whose views were defeated by the force of numbers, was to facilitate the plan of procuring a timely supply from America. If such counsels had been steadily pursued, there would not now probably have been cause to deplore the evils introduced by a contrary mode of acting. May past errors operate as a salutary warning against rashly persisting in a system, which has entailed such distress on the country. The linen board appears now sensible of the injury done to the country, by the sale of bad seed, and have directed the county inspectors to examine the state of the flax crop, which as it is more generally known, is found in many places to be very defective; as little of the old Riga seed has grown, and a cargo of 1200 hogsheads of old American imported into Dublin, is reported to have failed. The deficiency in the flax-seed sown this year, may in part be calculated from the circumstance that in the district adjoining Larne, we hear that only about 60 or 70 hogsheads were sown instead of the usual quantity of from 190 to 220 hogsheads.

The opening of the Dutch ports, though probably only a measure of short duration, has removed some of the difficulties under which trade suffered, and shows in a striking point of view, the inconveniences which we, as well as the nations in hostility with us mutually suffer, by the commercial war, into which, by a mistaken policy on all sides we are forced by our respective governments.

The holders of American produce continue to be disappointed in the greed of their speculative avidity, from the many arrivals, which have already come in, and which are expected from the United States. We are yet unacquainted with the effects which the partial repeal of the British orders, by the fresh order of the 26th of April, have had on its being known in America: about this time they will also be acquainted with the disavowal by our ministry of the terms acceded to by the British envoy, with the American government. The rejoicing on regaining their usual freedom of trade may probably be turned into a state of high exasperation at finding their disappointment.

From what has already taken place in America, we may perceive the effects of popular feeling on their government. The people felt the irksomeness of the restraints on trade: they expressed those feelings, and the government conceded to them by coming to an accommodation with the British Envoy. Let us contrast our state with their's. Our people timid, feeble, and hesitating, do not speak their sentiments with the firmness necessary to ensure the just weight to which they are entitled in a free government; and the executive taking advantage of this cringing disposition, gratify their passions by continuing, though in some degree mitigated, their ruinous system of orders in council, and will probably entail further sufferings on the country, by persisting in a course, from which we have already suffered so much. At the period of the President sending his message to Congress, at its opening on the 23d. ulto. neither the mitigated order of council of the preceding month, nor the subsequent refusal of the British ministry, appears to have been known in America. Some shipments of linen have been already made from this country to America, by way of Liverpool; and several vessels are in the course of next month for that country, advertised to sail from this port. Merchants in America have written to their Correspondents in this country, to send to them linens by the first ships. So far things look favourably for the renewal of our commerce with the United States, unless the late conduct of our government should again lead to the renewal of commercial hostility.

Flax has again advanced. If the Dutch ports are permitted to remain open, that article will probably be supplied to the English market from Holland: and thus our flax may remain for the use of our own manufactures. Still from the deficiency in the crop it will probably be scarce and dear: but if the Dutch ports should be closed, our linen manufacture must suffer greatly through the ensuing season.

Sugar and rum continue to decline in price. The want of an adequate supply of timber, bears hard on many of the labouring classes, and on the general improvement of the country. The difficulty of procuring timber and other Northern produce, will probably be further increased by the late Ukase published in Russia, to prohibit trade with these countries which had been carried on under the mask of neutral colours and from Sweden being compelled to close her ports also against trade with the British Isles.

On the 1st instant, two new banks, the Commercial Bank, and the Northern Bank, were opened in the town of Belfast. The quantity of paper in circulation being thus suddenly increased, the premium on guineas rose for a few days to 2 and 2½ per cent; but when the amount of the issues found their own level, the discount on them was reduced again to the currency of last month, ½ to ¾ per cent. Exchange on London, has mostly been from 8 to 8½ per cent for guineas, and owing to the fluctuation of discount on notes, the exchange in that medium has varied from 8¼ to 10 per cent.—Silver is now in such plenty, as to become troublesome, from its superabundant quantity: of course the discount between tenpennies and bank notes, is likely to cease, and probably notes in comparison with them, will bear a premium.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from May 20, till June 20.

Barometer....highest		30 30	Thermometer....highest		73 6
mean		29 10	mean		60 20
lowest		28 40	lowest		43 0

Hectica,	1	Hectic fever.
Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy.
Opthalmia,	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Rheumatismus,	3	Acute rheumatism.
Sphacelus,	1	Mortification.
Hepatitis,	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Arthrodynia,	2	Chronic rheumatism.
Podagra,	1	Gout.
Variola,	1	Small pox.
Rubeola,	2	Measles.
Phthisis,	2	Consumption.
Hæmorrhois,	1	Piles.
Catarrhus,	2	Common cold.
Dyspepsia,	2	Indigestion.
Hypocondriasis,	1	Hypochondriac disease.

Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Hysteria,	1	Hysterics.
Rachitis,	1	Rickets.
Scrophula,	6	Evil.
Cataracta,	2	Blindness from opacity of the crystaline lens.
Herpes,	2	Ringworm or tetter.
Gonorrhœa, *Lues*,	10	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	20	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

From the very sudden depression of the thermometer, from 72 to 43 at the commencement of the present month, many important changes might be reasonably expected in the human frame, but these apprehensions, fortunately, have not been realized, if we except a more than usual number of colds and sore throats, and whether it had any influence in extirpating fever, it is difficult to say, for it will be seen that there is not a single case of it in the present catalogue, nor has the Reporter heard of any but one solitary instance of it in the town of Belfast, during the present month. Measles and small pox, have again appeared, and it is to be feared will make many victims; the common practice of giving wine and spirits in both diseases to "*strike them out*," as it is termed, cannot be too strongly reprehended.

Galvanism has been tried in several complaints, and without any remarkably good effects. The strong facts adduced in its favour by some authors, have not been confirmed by *our* practice, and it seems doubtful as yet, to what place in the *Materia Medica*, it should be referred; these, although unwelcome truths, may have their use, as tending to abate unreasonable confidence, and as inciting to a more sedulous search after new and more successful modes of cure. The two cases of cataract were both happily cured by the operation of couching, after complete blindness for the space of two or three years.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From May 20, *till June* 20.

Now fragrance from each blossom'd bough
Descends in balmy gales; and now
Thy fav'rite flowers their leaves expand,
In dew-drops drest by nature's hand. WESTAL.

Although Ireland nourishes in her almost ever-verdant vales a numerous variety of plants, grateful to the palate and pleasing to the sight, yet the ever active mind of man, roaming in quest of new enjoyments, searches the most distant regions for fresh varieties; from Persia was brought the peach, from North America the beautiful Azaleas, Kalmias and the splendid Magnolias; but to Europe and to culture are we indebted for the numerous varieties of the garden's pride, "the lovely rose." Many of these beautiful strangers soon accommodate themselves to our soil and climate, while others shrink before the chilling blast, and only in the most favourable seasons reward us for our assiduous care. After the late severe winter all the vegetable creation seemed to glory in the genial spring, and the orchard gave large promise, but the cold and frosty nights of the 29th and 30th of May, and the 1st and 2d of June, nearly put a period to our hopes of fruit, and nipt, so as nearly to destroy, many a fair expanding flower.

May 21. Roan Tree (Pyrus aucuparia) Holly (Ilex aquifolia) and Laburnum (Cytisus laburnum) in full flower.

22. Hawthorn (Cratægus oxycantha) Rusty-leaved Rosebay (Rhododendron ferrugineum) and Night-smelling Campion (Lychnis vespertina) flowering.

24. Yellow Water Lily (Nymphea lutea) White Water Lily (N. alba) flowering. Horse fly or Cleg (Tabanus Pluvialis) appearing.

25. Double Pæony (Pæonia Officinalis) flowering.

26. Bulb-bearing Orange Lily (Lilium bulbiferum) St. Bruno's Lily (Anthenicum Liliastrum) Alpine Rose (Rosa Alpina) and Pendulous fruited Rose (Rosa pendulina) flowering.

28. Oriental Poppy (Papaver Orientale) flowering. White Beam Tree (Pyrus Aria) in full flower.

June 1. Connaught heath (Erica Daboecia) flowering.

3. Creeping Cinquefoil (Potentilla reptans) flowering.

5. Common Cow Wheat (Melampyrum pratense) and Wood Cow Wheat (M. Sylvaticum) flowering.

9. Cuckoo Flower, or Ragged Robin (Lychnis Flos-cuculi) flowering.

10. White Ladies' Red Straw (Gallium Saxatile) flowering.
11. Dog Rose (Rosa Canina) flowering.
13. Ling Heath (Erica cinerea) flowering.
19. Mouse-ear Hawk-weed (Hieracium Pilosella) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

In our last, mention was made of the powerful influence of the winds on our temperature and moisture; during the present period we have every reason to remember our remark. For the greater part of May there never was finer and warmer weather known at the season, and we flattered ourselves that Summer had occupied the place of Spring, and that we had done with Winter, but the wind changing, brought back such chilling blasts as soon convinced us that our station was within the confines of the Frigid Zone. Accounts from England, in the papers of the 6th of June, mention snow being eighteen inches deep on the turnpike-road, on Shapfells, Cumberland; and some of the high mountains of the county Donegall, were white for several days about the same time.

May 21, 22 - - - - - - Showery,
23, 24, 25, - - - - Fine,
26, - - - - - - - - Rain at Night,
27, - - - - - - - - Fair,
28, 29, - - - - - - - Showery,
30, - - - - - - - - Rain,
31, - - - - - - - - Showery,
June 1, 2, - - - - - - - Stormy and wet,
3, - - - - - - - - Fine,
4, - - - - - - - - Showery,
5, - - - - - - - - - Wet,
6, - - - - - - - - - Showery,
7, - - - - - - - - - Wet,
8, 9, - - - - - - - Showery,
10, - - - - - - - - - Showery morning, fine day,
11, - - - - - - - - Fine,
12, 13, - - - - - - - Some light showers,
14, - - - - - - - - - Wet morning,
15, - - - - - - - - Light showers,
16, - - - - - - - - - Dark threatening rain,
17, 18, 19, 20, - - - Fine.

The predominant range of the Barometer has been below 30. and on the 6th of June it was so low as 28.9.

The lowest point at which the Thermometer stood, at 2, P. M. was 43 on the 1st of June, and the highest was on the 25th, when it stood at the same hour, at 72.

The general prevalence of the wind has been Southerly 16; Northerly 7, and Westerly 4; of the intermediate points, S.W. has been 10, and S.E. 7 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JULY 1809.

On the first, the Moon rises at 46 min. past 10 aft. under the 4 stars in the triangle of the Water-pot, and during the night they would be particularly remarked, if not obscured by her superior splendour.

Fifth, She rises at 0, morning, a little after Jupiter, having passed him before noon the preceding day, above her are the three first stars of the Ram, and she is nearest the 3d of these stars. As she mounts the heavens, Jupiter being to the west, and Venus considerably to the east of her, will form a pleasing groupe before sun rise; she passes the ecliptic on this day before noon but without producing an eclipse.

Tenth, She rises at 43 min. past 2 A. M. and sets at 31 min. past 6 P. M.

Fifteenth, We observe to the west of her the 17th star of the Lion, which she passed about a quarter past 5 in the evening, above her is the first of the Lion, to the west, and she is directing her course towards Mars which is very considerably to the east of her; at 9 she is 52° 32′ from the first of the Virgin.—She sets this evening at 19 min. past 9.

Twentieth, She is to the east of the Virgin and Mars; she is near, but to

the east of the 11th of the Virgin, which she passed at 55 min. past 7, and as she will pass Herschell at 9 min. past 10, she will at 9 be nearly midway between the star and the planet; if the night be clear, any observer may now mark the position of this distant planet, and with a telescope discover him on a future night when the moon will be at a greater distance from him. At 9 she is 32° 33′ from Antares.

Twenty-fifth, She rises at 7 min. past 7 and passes the meridian at 23 min. past 11 aft. having above to the east of her the two first stars of the Goat, and below her to the west the small stars in the head of the Archer, at 9 she is 62° 55′ from the first of Pegasus and 41° 46′ from Antares.

Thirtieth, She rises at 32 min. past 9, being under the 4 stars in the Square, and passes the line drawn through the two eastern of these stars before sun-rise.

Mercury is in his inferior conjunction on the 10th, and, of course, will be too near the sun to be visible till toward the latter part of the month at which time he may be seen half an hour before sun rise, near east, north-east.

Venus is a morning star during the whole of the month, and will shine with great splendour at a considerable height in the heavens, in which her path is very conspicuous. During the greater part of this month she will form a pleasing prospect with a variety of the brilliant fixed stars, which it may reasonably be supposed will greatly arrest the attention of the curious.

Mars is an evening star this month, and on the 1st will be found near to, but west of the first of the Virgin, the Moon passes him on the morning of the 20th.

Jupiter may be looked for in the eastern hemisphere in the mornings, though he rises about midnight on the 1st and earlier every successive night: the Moon passes him on the 5th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 26 min. after 9, on the evening of the 1st, and 11 min. past 8 on the 19th, to the east of him is the second of the Scorpion, and below him the 11th of the Balance. Thus we have Mars, Herschell, and Saturn to amuse our evening walks, and the early riser will be gratified with observations on Mercury, Venus and Jupiter: the Moon passes him on the 22d.

Herschell is stationary on the 15th. During the whole month he is in a favourable situation to be observed, the Moon passes him on the 20th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Imersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Imersions.*				3d SATELLITE.					4th SATELLITE.			
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	12	57	10	4	6	27	18	5	23	54	15	Im.				
4	7	25	34	7	19	45	31	6	2	25	15	E.				
6	1	53	59	11	9	4	54	13	3	55	56	Im.				
7	20	22	24	14	22	23	7	13	6	25	48	E.				
9	14	50	48	18	11	42	31	20	7	56	42	Im.	* *First Satellite Continued.*			
11	9	19	13	22	1	0	47	20	10	25	28	E.	22	0	9	40
13	3	47	38	25	14	20	10	27	11	57	26	Im.	23	18	38	4
14	22	16	2	29	3	38	23	27	14	25	14	E.	25	13	6	29
16	16	44	27										27	7	34	53
18	11	12	51										29	2	3	18
20	5	41	15										30	20	31	43

Look to the right hand.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must decline the Correspondence of William. We find that one of the articles which we inserted lately with his signature, was set to music upwards of twenty years ago.

The following papers do not suit us. J. M. on Decorum; and a second article from the same writer, on Knowledge. Philanthropos. An ironical defence of Sterne, W. M'W. on the same subject. The latter is mistaken in his surmise.

The following pieces of Poetry are rejected. R. B. A Sonnet and Stanzas, signed W.H.D.

Errata.....We crave the Author's and our Reader's indulgence for an error in the press, in our last number, at page 368, col. 2d, five lines from the bottom, for mind read mine. In the Sonnet to the Redbreast; as it stands, the writer is made to speak of "a bird's mind," an error of which he was not guilty.—Page 415, col. 2d, line 4 from the bottom of the page, dele poor.—Page 435, col. 2nd, line 29 from the bottom of the page, for tales read tails.

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